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THE INDEPENDENT

Friday 19 September 1997

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MAGAZINES



INSIDE TODAY

THE EYE

Today's 32-page Eye:
Film special with
Julia Roberts

plus Rock, Jazz and
Classical Music

TODAY'S NEWS

Tourists killed in Egypt

Ten tourists, including six Germans, were murdered, and at least another nine people were injured when Islamic extremists attacked their bus in the middle of Cairo. Gunmen wearing business suits approached the bus outside the Egyptian Museum and began to machine-gun it, while one hurled bombs. As passengers ran from the bus, with their clothes on fire, a shoot-out began with the police. On page 14, we report on the massacre and assess how dangerous Egypt has now become for foreigners.

Hindley art splashed

Marcus Harvey's painting of the child-killer Myra Hindley, made with the cast of a child's handprint, has proved too sensational for its own good. In separate attacks at the Royal Academy yesterday, it was splashed with red and blue ink and had an egg flung at it.

Outside the RA's "Sensation" show in central London, the mother of a boy who was abducted by Hindley and her partner Ian Brady, and never found, was among the protesters urging visitors to boycott the show. Full story, page 11.

Amin on camera

Twenty-five years after the arrival of the first Ugandan Asians in Britain, fleeing the murderous regime of Idi Amin, we hear the stories of some of those who came here and prospered. But what of the old monster himself?

Today, we publish the first picture for 15 years of the former dictator, taken in his white-washed villa in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he is spending his days in exile. Page 5.

Tackling car addiction

After a Royal Commission report on pollution demanded an attack on the "macho car culture" by politicians, the Government has promised to respond. This could mean a doubling of petrol prices, higher road taxes and a crackdown on off-road vehicles. But will Labour really try to wean us off our cars? Page 3.

Giving it some hwyl: Wales awaits her destiny



Light of democracy: A candle-lit vigil held on Wednesday night, by members of the Welsh 'Yes' campaign, outside the Owain Glyndwr parliament building, in Machynlleth, mid-Wales. Turnout in yesterday's devolution referendum was low but the 'Yes' camp remained confident that the principality would choose to establish an assembly in Cardiff, following Scotland's double 'Yes' to a tax-raising Parliament in Edinburgh. Report, page 6

Photograph: Tom Pilsdon

Labour dithers over computer catastrophe

The Government was warned yesterday that 6 million jobs could be at risk if it does not stop dithering and act quickly to defuse the Year 2000 computer timebomb. Britain faces a human, business and technical disaster which can hardly be over-estimated. Time is running out. Yet hardly anything is being done, Anthony Beavis, Political Editor, discovers.

Businesses reduced to "drips and drabs", ministers are passing the buck, and the task of warning business about the threat posed by the mass computer breakdown at the turn of the century has been delegated to "one man and his cat".

Taskforce 2000 - "ensuring business continuity at the millennium" - might sound grand. Established at the instigation of the Conservative Government, it is co-sponsored by the CBI and the Computer Services and Software Association.

But Robin Guenier, executive director of Taskforce 2000, yesterday blew the lid off a saga of bungling Whitehall complacency in an attempt to jolt the Government, business and the public into action.

on an emergency footing.

Mr Guenier, who works from his home, a cottage next to a pub car park near Wheatthamstead, Hertfordshire, is so starved of funds that he has not even had a secretary for the last year. His first secretary arrives on Monday. He described his operation as "one man and his cat".

He has the help of one civil servant, seconded from DTI and two women who answer telephones from a "virtual office" in London. In July, he submitted a modest business plan to John Battle, the industry minister, begging for another \$450,000. Eight weeks later, he has heard on the "grapevine" that he has been allocated another £100,000.

There has been no research into the scale of the problem, and there is not one penny available for advertising. Because many computers are not geared to cope with a year ending in two zeros - 2000 - some of them will think they have gone back to 1980 at the end of 1999. Meltdown could force business to a grinding halt. The doomsday scenario includes empty supermarket shelves, aircraft grounded, international markets closing down, and hospitals being starved of vital medical supplies.

Mr Guenier said some Americans described it as the modern equivalent of the Black Death. The chief executive of a British company with an annual turnover of £350m told him they had been working on the



One man and his cat:
Robin Guenier

problem for two years already. "And still they're not confident of completing everything on time."

"I am not a doomsayer. I believe this is resolvable with political will, and the attention of senior people. But if you look at this over the next two years, it is as important as Aids, global warming and BSE combined. This is going to be devastating if we get it wrong."

John Redwood, the shadow spokesman, last night urged Tony Blair to take control of his own ministers, saying: "The Government shows no sense of urgency and offers no leadership to business."

Whitehall insiders said that Labour ministers have wasted time since coming to power. Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, took a keen interest before the election. After the election, she passed it on to Mr Battle, who has responsibility for

telecommunications. He has now passed it on to Barbara Roche, a junior minister responsible for small business. She saw Mr Guenier for the first time on Monday.

A year after Taskforce 2000 was set up the Government has contributed £250,000, although it has pledged up to £400m for the Millennium Dome.

At Monday's meeting with Mrs Roche, Mr Guenier spelled out the threat in cold, hard figures. On the most optimistic assumptions, he said that any large- or medium-sized business which had not made an adequate start on ensuring that its computer systems were ready for the change of century by the end of the current financial year, next April, risked business failure.

"The indications are that only about 20 per cent of large businesses and 10 per cent of medium size business have made such a start," he told the minister. "That means that about 40,000 businesses with about 6 million employees have not. The possible failure of so many businesses represents an unprecedented threat to the economy."

Mr Guenier said: "I can find no one who understands the problem who doubts this. This is extraordinarily worrying - almost beyond belief. But no one seems to want to listen."

Asked how Mrs Roche had responded, Mr Guenier said: "I just left a very unhappy lady. I got no response. It's all woolly. I get no feel that anybody believes me."

Zinfandel?

Don't they swim in the Bahamas?



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WEATHER The Eye, page 30
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CROSSWORDS Page 32 and
the Eye, page 29

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When Baroness Jay travelled to Africa she took an anti-malarial drug which government scientists say is linked to mental problems such as nightmares and hallucinations. She tells of her own experiences.

8/EDUCATION

Britain's first schools hit-squad has been sent into the east-London borough of Hackney to safeguard the education of thousands of children.

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Black columnists and intellectuals in South Africa are clamouring for a purge of the still white dominated media, arguing it is as racist as ever. The signs for press freedom are ominous.

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BBC managers were forced to climb down over plans to restructure the corporation's news operation after protests from presenters and editors.

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A retired physician and bingo parlour-owner plunged relations between Israel and the Palestinians into crisis.

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President Jiang Zemin stamped his authority on the Communist Party, ousting some old faces from the central committee.

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Designer drugs are, for the first time, more popular in the north than in the south of England.

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My mother's lovers. A daughter's account of the often hilarious procession of men through her household.

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Suzanne Moore asks if anything has really changed since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Robert Fisk revisits the refugee camps at Sabra and Chatila, Lebanon, 15 years on.

24/BUSINESS

Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand are merging to become the world's biggest accountancy firm.

TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.15	Italy (lira)	2,689.00
Austria (schillings)	19.28	Japan (yen)	190.94
Belgium (francs)	56.66	Malta (lira)	0.61
Canada (\$)	2.16	Netherlands (guilders)	3.08
Cyprus (pounds)	0.80	Norway (kroner)	11.16
Denmark (kroner)	10.51	Portugal (escudos)	276.53
France (francs)	9.21	Spain (pesetas)	230.50
Germany (marks)	2.75	Sweden (kroner)	11.79
Greece (drachmas)	437.30	Switzerland (francs)	2.27
Hong Kong (\$)	11.99	Turkey (lira)	259,956.00
Ireland (pounds)	1.03	USA (\$)	1.56

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PEOPLE



Chelsea waves goodbye to the White House

And then there were three: Bill, Hillary and Socks. Chelsea Clinton, the First Daughter, left the White House yesterday to begin her student career at Stanford University in California.

It is a ritual that has been playing out across the land. Fathers and mothers getting in their cars to deliver their suddenly grown-up children to universities in unfamiliar towns and unfamiliar states.

"The first thing I did this morning," the President confided to White House reporters, "was ... make sure we had all the right things". But this kid's belongings were piled not into the back of the family Ford but into the belly of a 747 jumbo jet - Air Force One. And, for the President's daughter, the wrench of leaving home may be a little more daunting than for some of her peers.

Until now, the Washington press has more or less let Chelsea be. But Hillary, especially, fears for

her daughter's privacy. In a syndicated newspaper column yesterday, the First Lady said that attending the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, and seeing the two princes left behind, had made her worry more about her daughter. The First Lady also remembered some of her own undergraduate epiphanies, including, "the long walks through city streets or across campus that ended in a tender moment with a handsome new boyfriend. I can't imagine having any of those private experiences ... interrupted by the bright lights of cameras".

But for Chelsea, who chose a place of learning about as far from Washington as is possible without actually leaving the contiguous states, the anticipated liberation may not be all that she expects. Those beefy men in T-shirts walking down the dormitory building? Secret Service agents.

— David Oshinsky, New York

Cantona takes a flying leap into French fantasy

If Eric Cantona could come back as a woman, he would like to be Diana, Princess of Wales, in heaven.

In one of the rare interviews he has given since his retirement, the footballer turned actor said he was "enormously moved" by Diana's death. Cantona, 31, was then asked by the French cinema magazine, *Première*, to give a series of instant responses to simple questions.

If he could come back as a flower, he said he would like to be a marguerite; if he came back as a tree, he would like to be a

pine tree in summer, with cicadas in its branches. Asked what woman he would like to be, Cantona replied: "I would be Lady Di, where she is today."

The former king of Manchester, described by the magazine as "the youngest retired person in France", was photographed for the interview made up like a Maori, with half his face covered in 'tattoos' of mock tattoos.

A French film producer, Paul Rassin, has predicted that Cantona will become "the new star of the French cinema".

— David Lichfield, Paris

Author called to account by building society

A building-society investor who wrote a guide on how best to go about carpetbagging has had his account closed.

Jon Massey's account was terminated by the Britannia Building Society, which strongly believes that building societies should not convert to banks, because he was campaigning against mutualism. In his booklet, *The Carpetbagger's Accomplish*, he says that anyone who did not want to earn a £1,500 windfall from a £100 investment was a "complete idiot".

Stephen Williams, chief solicitor for Britannia,

wrote to Mr Massey, saying the society planned to close his saver account on 31 October, adding that unless Mr Massey had any other account or mortgage with it, then his membership would cease on that date. "Please do not ask to open any further accounts with the society as our staff have been instructed to decline any such requests," said Mr Williams, who did not disclose any reason for the move.

Mr Massey, from Plymouth, Devon, said he believed he had been unfairly treated, and intended to establish that the society was within its rights.

UPDATE

HEALTH

Paying a patient to take the pills

Paying patients to take their pills may be an effective way of ensuring that they complete the course and keep hospital appointments. Many patients stop taking drugs as soon as they feel better but before the cause of their illness is eradicated. This increases costs by wasting drugs and makes the illness more difficult and more expensive to treat in the future.

Kidney patients who stop taking anti-rejection drugs may need a new transplant, and sufferers from tuberculosis prescribed a cocktail of antibiotics for several months may continue to spread the disease if they stop taking them early.

In ten of eleven trials in the United States, in which financial incentives were offered, patients receiving them stuck to their treatment better, according to a study in the *British Medical Journal*.

— Jeremy Laurence

FARMING

Battery-hen misery 'unnecessary'

The misery and cruelty of factory farming could be ended if consumers were to spend just a few extra pence a week, a report said yesterday.

It was a report that battery hens were vital to keep down the price of eggs, according to the report, unveiled by Compassion in World Farming (CIWF). The economics of factory farming showed that a free range egg cost just a little over 1p more to produce than a battery egg, said the campaign group. The same was true for pork and bacon, which was just as cheap to produce as meat from factory farmed pigs, it said. Moving away from factory farming to free range production would also create more jobs in the poultry industry, the report said. Pete Stevenson, CIWF political and legal director, said: "For a cost to each of us of less than 3p per week we could free millions of hens and pigs from a lifetime of misery."

NATURE

Butterflies fly in on wings of a storm



Hundreds of thousands of small tortoiseshell butterflies (above) have flown into Britain from Europe over the past two weeks after being caught up in storms off the French and Spanish coasts.

The insects, whose caterpillars feed on nettles, have been arriving in huge numbers across England's eastern coastline to boost the resident population of small tortoiseshells. On one kilometre-long stretch of coastline observers estimated that 40 were flying in every minute. It is thought that the mass movement began when storms in the Bay of Biscay, hundreds of miles to the south, at the end of August, blasted the butterflies north. Another common species, the small white, has also been seen in larger numbers. The small tortoiseshell, often seen in gardens, will soon go into hibernation. If you find one in your home, putting it in a cool, sheltered place like a garage gives it the best chance of surviving the winter.

— Nicholas Schoon

DIET

Hidden dangers of salt

Cutting down on the amount of salt in the diet could save thousands of lives from strokes, scientists say. A study of 47 elderly people whose salt intake was halved showed a marked reduction in blood pressure which is one of the main risk factors for stroke.

The study, published in *The Lancet*, suggests that if all elderly people reduced their salt intake at least 34,000 lives a year would be saved. However, Professor Graham MacGregor and his colleagues at St George's Hospital, London, say that 80 per cent of salt in the diet is hidden in processed food and manufacturers are not doing enough to reduce it. Salt is the cheapest flavour enhancer, and allows more water to be added to processed meats, increasing their weight at no cost, and it is the main determinant of thirst in temperate climates, which is important to the soft drinks industry.

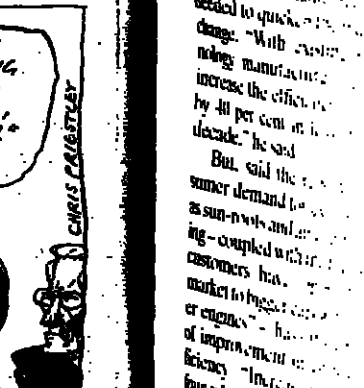
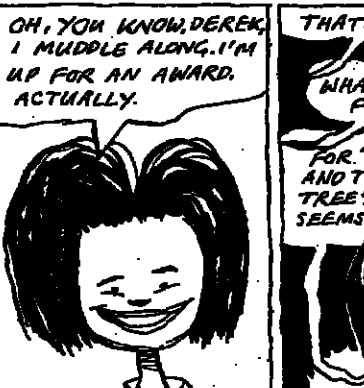
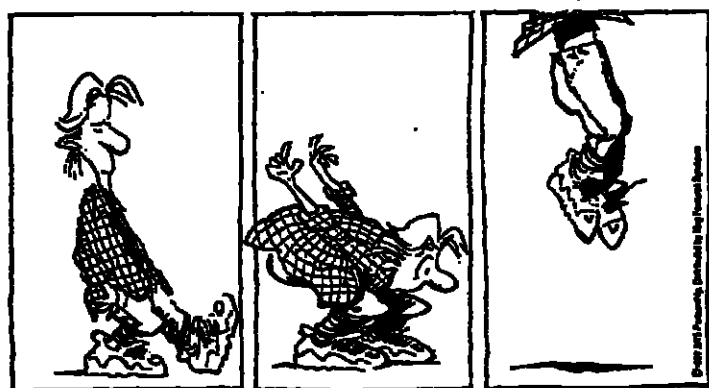
— Jeremy Laurence

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News...

We are nation addicts. the Blair take us

The growth in car use goes on. Most of the cars are not new. Most of the cars are not new. Most of the cars are not new.

It may be the end of the world for the car. It may be the end of the world for the car. It may be the end of the world for the car.

The committee has decided to accept the recommendation. The committee has decided to accept the recommendation. The committee has decided to accept the recommendation.

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TOMORROW

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■ **Plus:** a 20-page complete weekly television guide, with new films, clubbing and comedy

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We are a nation of car addicts. Dare the Blairites take us on?

The growth in car use goes on. Most of us could not imagine life without one. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, examines a report that puts the Government on the spot over its pledge to get people out of the driving seat.

It may be the end of the road for the gas guzzler. Large-engined, luxurious cars bought as "fashion accessories" were singled out as the unacceptable face of motoring yesterday by a leading group of academics.

A report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Protection noted that car manufacturers were busy promoting speed and size while a "shift in thinking" was required to get people to use more fuel-friendly, smaller cars.

Such sentiment may provide a bumpy ride for the politicians. Ministers have often sought to bolster their green credentials by talking about reducing car use, but rarely do they produce any measures to cut pollution.

Tony Blair made a clean environment a key part of New Labour's New Britain - but as yet his administration has yet to tackle traffic growth for fear of upsetting the middle classes.

The commissioners think that industry also has a part to play. Richard Macrory, a leading member of the commission, said that the manufacturers needed to quicken the pace of change. "With existing technology manufacturers could increase the efficiency of cars by 40 per cent in less than a decade," he said.

But, said the report, consumer demand for extras such as sun-roofs and air conditioning - coupled with the fact that customers have "moved up-market to bigger cars with larger engines" - has offset much of improvement in engine efficiency. "Increased sales of four-wheel drive vehicles and 'multi-purpose vehicles' means that it is unlikely that any benefits will be seen."

The news was not all bad for

the motor manufacturers. The report praised Ford for its Ka, Daihatsu for launching its supermini, the Move, as well as Mercedes bold new "Smart" car - a two seater one litre car aimed at the urban driver.

However, motoring organisations said the scientists had missed the point. "Research has shown that 10 per cent of cars contribute to 50 per cent of the pollution in the air," said Edmund King, of the RAC.

Ford pointed out that the best-selling Galaxy, given almost iconic status by Tony Blair, carries twice as many people as a small car. The 1.3 litre Ka delivers more than 42 miles a gallon, whereas the 2.3 litre Galaxy turns in a respectable 28 mpg. The MPV market is now worth 1.7 per cent of the UK market and is a growth area.

Sir Geoffrey Allen, a member of the commission, said: "It needs a change in consumer thinking. Buyers need to understand the environmental impact."

This is the second report on the subject by the Royal Commission into transport and pollution - an unprecedented move brought about by the last government's inaction. Despite prescribing radical proposals to curb car use in 1994, nothing has been done. Road traffic is growing again and cycling and walking are in decline.

Professor Michael Marmot, an expert in public health and a member of the commission, said that if nothing was done there would be "a continued increase in obesity."

Among the proposals, the scientists call for a doubling of petrol prices by 2005, a new levy permit to encourage hauliers to switch to rail and a plethora of road pricing mechanisms and parking permits.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for transport and the environment, told Radio 4's *Today* programme he could not commit the Government to increasing petrol prices. "But give me by spring to give you the framework of achieving the policy and I think the people of this country will see a radical change of direction," he said.



THE GALAXY DRIVER

Tony Blair, the 44-year-old Prime Minister and his family use a Ford Galaxy.

The car is part of the Downing Street fleet. "Clearly that type of car is quite useful for carrying a number of people around rather than having two cars."

"Because the Galaxy has folding seats at the back you can actually

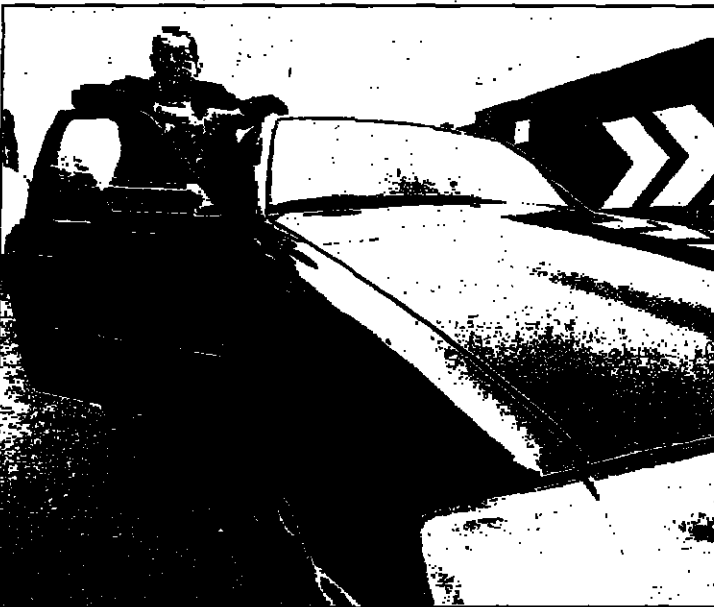
pack it with eight people in extremis," a spokesman said.

"If they want to travel as a family, with three growing children it is convenient. They wouldn't all fit into the prime ministerial car [a Daimler]."

Despite its size, Downing Street claims it has endeavoured to make the vehicle environmentally friendly. It was sent away in August to be converted to run on gas, which is arguably greener than petrol although organisations including Friends of the Earth have expressed reservations.

"We did a pilot previously when John Major was Prime Minister, when a Range Rover was converted to run on gas. As a result of our experience with that, we felt we should continue to convert."

"We did a pilot previously when John Major was Prime Minister, when a Range Rover was converted to run on gas. As a result of our experience with that, we felt we should continue to convert."



THE MERCEDES DRIVER

Michael Williams, a 49-year-old newspaper executive, drives a Mercedes C-class five miles to work daily. "I work long, irregular hours in a stressful job and I regard it as a comfortable and relatively stress-free way of getting to work," he says.

"The alternative is to take the Northern [tube] line and the Docklands Light Railway which are probably the most erratic in London. The only thing that would entice me off the road would be much more reliable and comfortable public transport." He admits he likes cars. "I regard the car as an extension of my living room in that I have privacy and I can listen to the news on the radio in peace. My car makes a major contribution to the quality of my life. Unlike most other things in my working day, my car is 100 per cent reliable."



THE RANGE-ROVER DRIVER

Karen O'Connor, 29, a hospital clerical officer, was driving the family Range Rover to Sainsbury's in north London yesterday.

"It's my husband who really wanted one. He likes Range Rovers for the comfort though he doesn't like the amount of money it costs to fill it up," she says.

They bought the Range Rover eight months ago and Patrick, 31, an administrator and driver, uses it for work. Mrs O'Connor, who has a three-year-old son, said she rarely drives it.

She thought they would definitely sell it if taxes penalised big cars or petrol went up in an environmental crackdown. "The only reason we would think about getting rid of it is because of how much it costs," she says.

Prescott steers difficult course ...

John Prescott wants you to use your car less. The only problem is that some of his party do not agree. Randeep Ramesh and Colin Brown report.

The man tasked with ending the public's love affair with the car is well-known for his love of large and powerful Jaguars as well as a record of speeding offences.

For a government concerned as much about symbolism as substance, is it long before the new Labour spinners ask John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, whether he needs to change his car - or his job.

Not that this will bother John Prescott. He has little time for the "beautiful people" who run new Labour. They may have wooed the middle-class with two kids, private school fees and two cars - one sleek 2 litre saloon and a people carrier - but that is not Mr Prescott's problem.

The Deputy Prime Minister would like the public to get out of their cars and into the buses and onto the trains. And he wants it done quickly. How he does this without losing the precious support of millions of middle-class Labour voters is his problem.

He could implement a series of swing-taxes on parking; he might introduce road charges; he could double petrol prices - a proposal contained in the Royal Commission report released yesterday.

Then he could funnel the money raised into greener alternatives like improving the London Underground system or the revitalising the ailing bus network.

But many oppose him and these seemingly sensible measures. What is worst is most of his critics are in his own party. His arch-rival Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is known to be unhappy with any new tax.

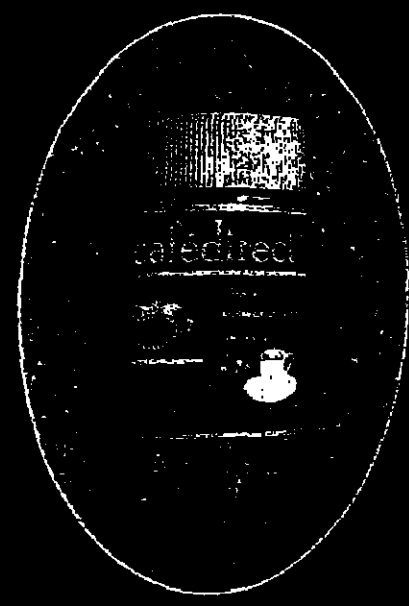
Mr Brown, also, does not want the to lose control over any revenue collected - especially by handing it to Mr Prescott and his newly-created Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions.

Without these measures, experts say it is impossible to see how Labour can make good on its promises to cut carbon dioxide levels and ease global warming.

The Tories also scent bad blood between the Labour brethren. John Redwood last night said a "turf war" between Mr Prescott and Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was exacerbating a dilemma for the Government over its commitment to environmentally-friendly policy.

"I believe there is a Whitehall row between Prescott and Mrs Beckett. It has started a turf war over the number of territorial claims that the Deputy Prime Minister is making over the DTT and it is going to be the cause of continuing tension between them," Mr Redwood said.

Mr Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, wrote to Mrs Beckett challenging her over whether she supported curbs on vehicle use, or backed the car industry. "They are facing hard choices, and they cannot have it both ways," he said.



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Families of abuse victims threaten to boycott inquiry

Families of people abused while in the care of Buckinghamshire County Council are threatening to boycott an independent inquiry, saying it is not going to address the right questions.

The families, all of whom had mentally disabled relatives at private residential care homes, run by Longcare Ltd, in Buckinghamshire, are also worried that they will never get to see the inquiry's full report.

Buckinghamshire County Council has promised they will be published. But the families fear that the authority's insurers will raise objections, as happened with an abuse investigation in Chwyd, North Wales. At a meeting this week, they decided they would seek further reassurances before handing over documents they have gathered as background to the case.

Three staff were convicted earlier this year of ill-treating and neglecting residents. Gordon Rowe, who set up the homes, killed himself the day before he would have been charged with offences including raping residents.

The families believe Buckinghamshire, which registered Gordon Rowe as a homeowner, should have done more to detect the abuse earlier. But the inquiry's terms of reference do not include any investigation of the decision to register him.

At least 35 former residents are preparing to sue the council and 10 have already received legal aid certificates. June Rayhaud, whose niece was a resident, said they should consider reserving their information to pursue the civil legal action.

Buckinghamshire has denied liability.
— Louise Jury

Passport rules force clerks to camp out

Representatives of some of the world's largest companies are sleeping out on the pavement to ensure that urgent passport problems are dealt with. The Home Office's refusal to improve the service at its personal inquiry office is petty officialdom gone mad, say its critics.

Patricia Wynn Davies, Legal Affairs Editor, reports.

Ludicrous scenes of solicitors' clerks and motorcycle messengers bedding down in sleeping bags outside the Immigration and Nationality Department at Lunar House, Croydon, south London (pictured), have followed the introduction of a new rule limiting representatives and courier applications to one per person.

A daily stop number system has also been introduced under which, depending on staff available, individual callers beyond a certain number will not have their applications considered on the day they queue up.

The inquiries might seem routine – for a typical foreign businessman or individual it might involve having a passport endorsed with the terms of their stay or to record a work permit extension – but speedy action is often urgently needed to facilitate trips from and returns to the UK.

Julia Onslow-Cole, a partner in Cameron McKenna, which is ranked as the leading business immigration firm by the Legal 500 directory, said her firm's out-door clerk was now forced to begin queuing from 1am or even earlier outside the Immigration and Nationality Department's Lunar House building in Croydon, south London to ensure urgent matters were dealt with on behalf of clients.



The problem has become so acute that representatives of multinationals such as Toyota and the investment bankers Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs have been obliged to camp out in sleeping bags to ensure that the passports of businessmen and women are in order.

The Home Office said yesterday that there had been a large increase in applications over the last 12 months and insisted that the public inquiry office was intended for personal applicants making single

applications. But Ms Onslow-Cole, chairman of the International Bar Association Migration and Nationality Committee, said: "This situation is intolerable for business and individuals alike. It is ludicrous to suggest that a senior executive of a large corporation bringing jobs and investment to the UK should personally queue up on the pavement at Lunar House."

Hilary Belchak, secretary of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association and partner in another leading business immigration firm, Simmons & Simmons, said: "We think the present situation is intolerable. We call for urgent talks with the Home Office to sort out a more effective and fair arrangement for all concerned."

Man charged with murder of teenager

A man was yesterday charged with the murder of Rachel Barradough, the teenager found stabbed to death two weeks ago. The 46-year-old man, who is from Wakefield where Rachel's body was found on 6 September, will appear before magistrates in the town today.

The 18-year-old was last seen when she left her home in Bankfoot, Bradford, to meet friends for a night out in Wakefield. Her body was found with stab wounds on wasteland the next night.

Rachel lived with her parents, Malcolm, 54, and Hilary, 39.

Straw criticises probation staff

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday told probation officers not to side with criminals, in a speech which implied that public safety was not the first priority of some officers. His remarks were immediately rebutted by probation staff leaders.

The attack on the Probation Service is seen as part of a strategy to toughen up community sentences and ensure they are not seen by the public as a soft option. With a rising prison population Mr Straw is expected to turn to community punishments.

In his first formal speech to probation staff he told a conference in Essex: "There should be no question of your taking the side of the offender against the community. The probation service should not be following an agenda which is separate from that of the communities which you serve."

He added: "The Probation Service's priority is protecting the public. There can be no fudging of that."

Diana 'crash photo' on Net

A picture claiming to show Diana, Princess of Wales trapped in the wreckage of the car in which she was fatally injured was placed on the Internet yesterday.

The photograph is one of a series of the late Princess put together by a group called Rotten who collect disturbing images for publication on the Internet. The dark, indistinct image – headlined "Purported Accident Photo" – appears to show a blonde woman with blood on her face at the centre of a heap of metal.

There are people with fluorescent jackets as worn by rescue crews at the edge of the picture but little else is visible.

Farmers go to EU in bid to end beef ban

UK farmers' leaders were tonight meeting the European Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, in Brussels in a further bid to ease the EU's worldwide ban on British beef exports.

National Farmers' Union president Sir David Naish and director general Richard Macdonald were seeking Mr Fischler's support for a lifting of the ban on meat from cattle born after a certain date.

The meeting follows yesterday's "opinion" from the

EU's Scientific Veterinary Committee that a partial lifting of the ban could be possible where a computerised tracing system and database existed.

At present, that would apply only to Northern Ireland, and the proposal has got a lukewarm response from farmers elsewhere. However, the committee also noted and welcomed the fact that the UK was preparing a separate proposal on animals of a certain age.

Sir David, who met the agriculture minister, Jack Cun-

ningham, in London this morning, said: "I particularly welcome the committee's reference to meat from cattle born after a certain date, which we think should be 1 August 1996."

"There is still a lot of hard work to be done and we are anxious to avoid any measures which would result in a piecemeal lifting of the ban when we really want to see an objective set of criteria which would eventually lead to the whole of the UK being freed from this unjustified imposition."

Pensioner who damaged bell-ropes walks free

A pensioner who silenced the bells of her village church by cutting the bell-ropes was yesterday given a conditional discharge after she was found guilty of criminal damage.

Midge Mather (pictured), 65, claimed she broke into the church using a crowbar and sawed through the ropes to stop the noise aggravating her brother's heart condition.

But a magistrate at Chippenham Magistrates in Wiltshire refused to believe her claims that she was forced to break the law because the church authorities refused to listen to her complaints.

Stipendiary magistrate Dudley Thomas handed the pensioner a conditional discharge after finding her guilty of causing criminal damage.

He then ordered police officers to take Mrs Mather to the cells for 10 minutes after a courtroom outburst in which she claimed she had had an unfair trial.

When she appeared back in the dock, Mr Thomas told her: "The sentence has taken account of your extremely sad circumstances."

"I am not unsympathetic to your circumstances. I hope the people of Compton Bassett will realise how stupid they have been and hope they will try to see sense and start negotiating."

After the case Mrs Mather said she planned to appeal to



the European Court of Human Rights.

And she added: "I would do it all again if it would save the life or the health of somebody."

During the two-day trial, magistrates heard how Mrs Mather smashed down the door of St Withyn's Church at Compton Bassett in Wiltshire with a crowbar before cutting the bell-ropes with a hacksaw.

Mrs Mather claimed she was forced into action after repeated requests to meet with the church authorities to discuss

the bell ringing at the 12th-century church were ignored.

She told the court she was "living in fear" of the bell ringing and had been driven to contemplate suicide.

She also claimed the sound of bell ringing was making her brother, whom she lived with, John Rummage, 74, ill from stress.

Mrs Mather, whose cottage is just 100 yards from the church, denied causing damage worth £1,852.25 when she broke into the church on 27 July last year.

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DAILY POEM

The Eagle (fragment)

by Alfred Lord Tennyson

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

This week's poems come from the new *Faber Book of Beasts*: an anthology of "some of the best poems in English about the creatures who share our planet", edited by Paul Muldoon (Faber & Faber, £14.99).

How Uganda's dispossessed became model citizens

Twenty-five years ago yesterday, the first Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin flew into Stansted Airport. Nearly 30,000 found sanctuary here, establishing thriving communities that have transformed the cultural and economic landscape. Kathy Marks reports on Britain's biggest immigrant success story.

They stepped off the plane from Entebbe, penniless, bewildered and frightened, clutching their British passports. In Uganda, they had been part of a prosperous middle class. At a stroke, they lost all their possessions and were uprooted from a country they had lived in for generations.

Six weeks earlier, on 6 August, 1972, President Amin had ordered out Uganda's 60,000 Asians, giving them 90 days to leave. In a speech to troops at Tororo barracks, he accused them of sabotaging the economy and failing to integrate.

After prevaricating in the hope that Amin could be persuaded to relent, the British government, under Edward

Heath, agreed to accept 30,000 British passport holders. They were allowed to take only £50 out of Uganda.

In their adopted homeland, the Ugandan Asians encountered acts of extraordinary kindness. Ordinary people opened up their homes, gave them jobs, taught them English. But these favoured children of the Empire also met with racism and hostility. Only a few years earlier, Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech had stoked fears that Britain was being swamped by immigrants.

In Smithfield, London, meat porters marched in protest at Britain becoming a "dumping ground". In Leicester, newspaper advertisements advised the "settlers" to go elsewhere, declaring the city "full up".

In the event, Leicester was one of the places where Asians settled in numbers, together with Birmingham, Manchester and the London boroughs of Brent and Ealing.

Starting from scratch, they overcame racism and the cultural divide to set up corner shops that provided the springboard for their financial security. The shops have become part of the British landscape, and in some cases expanded into business empires. In Leicester, Ugandan Asians now employ 11 per cent of the population. With

their entrepreneurial skills, work ethic and high regard for education, they are held up as model immigrants.

For Yashmin Alibhai-Brown, the journalist and author, this is part of the myth that has grown up around her people. "Once we were pariahs, now we are paragons," she said. "I feel extremely proud of what we have achieved, but we were not blameless victims."

"There is a reluctance to face the fact that we behaved appallingly towards black Africans in Uganda. It also concerns me that we have not used our economic power to gain access to positions of influence, in politics, for instance, doors remain closed to us."

But Ugandan Asians have been successful in almost every other area of life. The second generation - the sons and daughters of the corner-shop owners - has spread its wings, going into computers, accountancy, law and medicine.

"Twenty-five years on, their identity remains splintered. We are basically gypsies," said John de Souza, who works for Manubhai Madhvani, the industrialist. "We still have a strong attachment to both India and Africa as well as a lot of affection for Britain. We are a displaced, mixed-up sort of people."



Success story: Lata Patel arrived with nothing. Now she is a community leader

Photograph: Jason Bye

'Expulsions were a blessing in disguise'

Lata Patel, who recently finished a term as mayor of Brent Council, was almost destitute when she arrived in Britain with her husband-to-be in October 1972. She was a 16-year-old schoolgirl when she left Uganda. "We came here with practically nothing," she said.

She got a job as an insurance clerk, but soon joined her husband at the Heron petrol station group. They now run their own petrol stations, and Mrs Patel has been a Brent councillor since 1986. "For me, the expulsions have been a blessing in disguise," she said.

'The people extended a welcoming hand'

Manubhai Madhvani, head of a family business conglomerate in Uganda, was imprisoned by Amin for three weeks in 1972. After the expulsions, he set up his own company in London, dealing in glass, property, technology and electronics.

Mr Madhvani is now one of the richest Asians in Britain. He set up the British-Asian Uganda Trust earlier this year, to mark the 25th anniversary. "We came here full of anxiety," he said. "The people extended a welcoming hand, enabling us to make this country our home."

Idi Amin waits in the wings for his people's call

The Independent has obtained this picture, believed to be the first in almost 15 years, taken at Idi Amin's bolthole in Saudi Arabia.

His Excellency, self-styled Field Marshal and Life President of Uganda, the holder of the CBE (Conqueror of the British Empire) given to him, he says, by a grateful nation, waits the call to return once the "misunderstanding" which led to his overthrow is cleared up. The outside world may see his eight-year reign as setting a new low in the abuse of human rights, murderous injustice, and grand larceny of state treasury, but at his villa in the Red Sea port of Jeddah, Amin is convinced his people still love him.

He has been living there, courtesy of the Saudi government, since being airlifted out of Uganda with two wives and a dozen children by the Libyans in 1979. He has since



been joined by some 20 more children, plus hangers on.

Most of the money the former president is reported to have stolen from Uganda's coffers has gone, but the Saudi government gives him an allowance.

President Yoweri Museveni, in the meantime, has been

campaigning to get Asians kicked out by Amin to return to Uganda and help regenerate the economy. He will be visiting a Hindu temple in Neasden, North London, on 23 October to meet some of those expelled and their British-born descendants.

— Kim Sengupta

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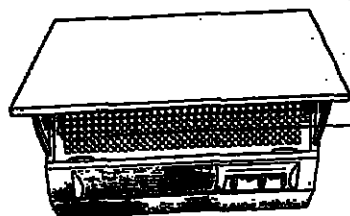
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6/POLITICS

Wales goes to the wire in the final push for D-Day

Voting got off to a slow start yesterday as the day of reckoning dawned in Wales.

But with campaigners on both sides aware that nothing less than the political future of their country was at stake, there was everything left to play for.

Tony Heath toured the polling stations.

Campaigners fighting over the 30 per cent of undecided voters in Wales's devolution referendum pledged to fight right up to the wire last night.

With polls giving supporters of the Government's plans for a 60-member elected assembly a slim lead, the result seemed to hang on just how many of the 2,218,850 voters stayed at

home. Both camps conceded that a turn-out of less than 50 per cent would damage the credibility of the winner.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Ronald Davies, and his wife, Christina, voted early at a caravan polling station in the car park of the Hollybush Inn at Drathen in his Caerphilly constituency. "This is D-Day. Devolution Day for the people of Wales," he said.

A light aircraft trailing a "Vote Yes - Support Blair" banner criss-crossed South Wales for much of the day. It had been chartered by an anonymous South Wales businessman stirred by what he said were misleading claims in a television broadcast by anti-devolutionists.

The "Just Say No" campaign funded by millionaire Sir Julian Hodge from his tax haven in the Channel Isles detected a shift in its favour. Caryl Pugh, veteran Labour Party activist and outspoken opponent of devolu-



Time for tea: Neli Roberts, the first to vote in Abercegir, takes refreshments for polling staff Photograph: Tom Pilston

tion remained confident: "We're having a last blast, leafletting in the streets of Cardiff and many other towns," she said.

At one of the more remote polling stations, a former monastery at Capel-y-Ffin in the mountains, half the 22 elec-

tors on the register had voted by late afternoon. Stanley Knill and his wife, Carol, bought the imposing white building 12 months ago. "The job of returning officer comes with the house," Mr Knill explained.

In the Twenties, Eric Gill

lived in the house and designed the famous Gill Sans serif type face employed by the new-look Independent.

When Wales rejected devolution by four to one in 1979, rural districts bordering England showed least enthusiasm,

while bastions of the Welsh language and culture in the north west took the opposite stance. A similar trend emerging in the current campaign suggested that Powys and Monmouthshire were among areas likely to deliver a thumbs down.

More recruits for overstretched armed forces

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, yesterday gave a clear signal that he will be recruiting more soldiers, sailors and airmen and women. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports.

The "severe overstretch" of the armed forces and the need to recruit will be one of the key elements of the Government's strategic defence review.

The Secretary of State for Defence said that Britain's increased operational commitments since the end of the Cold War had demonstrated that many areas of Britain's defences were suffering from severe overstretch - a charge denied in the past by Tory defence ministers.

He said that undermanning, which affected morale, would be tackled with recruitment drives for the army, navy and RAF.

The Army was already tackling undermanning of about 5,000 personnel but he said he

would give priority to recruiting more men and women to fill gaps in the Royal Navy which had undermanning of 1,500 personnel and the RAF of around 3,000 personnel.

The strategic defence review could lead to cuts in Britain's commitments, and Mr Robertson hinted that the ending of the Cold War could lead to a slimmer, more mobile, rapid deployment force in the future.

However, there are few signs that the defence review will release substantial savings to be spent on other public services, which will dismay some Labour MPs, who are calling for more money to be spent on hospital beds than bombs. Mr Robertson said Britain would keep the Trident nuclear force, although it might reduce the number of warheads.

He also stressed that Britain would face more varied threats from terrorism and regional conflicts.

"We need to retain a framework on which it would be possible to rebuild forces over the longer term to meet a greater threat than currently foreseen, should one begin to emerge," he said.

Labour MP named in suicide note angers party by breaking silence before inquiry

A suspended Labour MP yesterday spoke for the first time of his 'eight weeks of hell' since being named in a suicide note by a fellow Labour backbencher. But Colin Brown thinks Tommy Graham may have only succeeded in making his position worse.

Tommy Graham, the Labour MP suspended for allegedly smearing a colleague who committed suicide, yesterday declared he would clear his name.

Mr Graham, who is still suspended from the party at Westminster, pending the outcome of an inquiry, described how he had suffered after being accused of being behind a smear campaign in the suicide

note left by Gordon McMaster, the Labour MP for Paisley South.

But Graham's attempt to cast himself as one of the victims of the tragedy threatened to backfire with the party in Scotland, which is still facing demands for a more far-reaching inquiry into alleged efforts to destabilise Mr McMaster before he committed suicide. Party sources said Graham had been "unwise" to speak out before the inquiry was over.

"People were trying to destabilise my position, were bad-mouthing me," Mr Graham said.

"It has been eight weeks of hell for me, my wife Joan and the boys Thomas and John."

Mr Graham had hoped he would be cleared before the party conference in a fortnight and had been keeping silent until after the Scottish referendum. But Scottish Labour Party sources were displeased at the

latest move by Mr Graham.

"I know my enemies and he wasn't one of them. I had a fabulous relationship with him," Mr Graham said about Mr McMaster.

He was "stunned and shocked" at having been named in Mr McMaster's suicide note, together with Lord Dixon, a former deputy chief whip. "I have always seen myself as a friend of Gordon and there was nobody more stunned and shocked on hearing about his death than I, and my family."

"We genuinely feel for his family. I know that if Gordon and I had had an opportunity to speak I am sure we would have resolved our difficulties."

Asked if he believed the inquiry's outcome would spell the end of his political career, Mr Graham said on BBC Radio Scotland: "I have absolutely no doubt that I will clear my name. And I am quite positive it is not the end of my political career."

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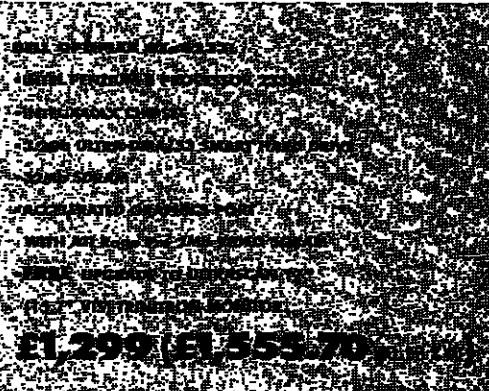
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Homoeopathy isn't quack. It really works

Homoeopathy, the complementary therapy used by millions of people, is effective at treating illness despite appearing scientifically implausible, according to a 50-year survey of the best research. But it will take more than this to convince sceptical doctors, as Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports.

The scientific world will be baffled by the findings of a major survey of the controversial therapy known as homoeopathy which shows that it is two-and-a-half times more effective at treating illness than placebo (a mock drug, like a sugar pill).

Researchers in Germany and the United States analysed the results of 89 controlled trials of homoeopathy published in 13 countries since 1943. The homoeopathic remedies were used to treat everything from warts to strokes.

The findings, published in the *Lancet* medical journal, present a challenge to orthodox science.

Homoeopathy is based on the belief that it is possible to cure diseases by giving patients substances which cause similar symptoms - such as fever - in healthy individuals. These remedies are said to retain their potency even when repeatedly diluted to the point where no molecules of the original substance remain. How the solution "remembers" information from the original substance is unknown.

Orthodox doctors say that the theory of homoeopathy

runs counter to what is known about physics and chemistry, and would require the basic laws of science to be rewritten.

Their argument has been that the claimed success of homoeopathic treatments can be ascribed to the placebo effect, a well-known phenomenon, in which people given a pharmacologically inactive substance, such as a sugar pill, report that their condition has improved, just because they think they are getting proper treatment.

The new survey, published in one of the world's most respected medical journals, is a blow to that argument, although the researchers could find no convincing evidence that any single homoeopathic approach was effective for any single condition.

They say "a serious effort to research homoeopathy is clearly warranted, despite its implausibility."

The journal carries two sceptical commentaries, by Professor Michael Langman of the University of Birmingham and Professor Jan Vandenbroucke of the University of Leiden, Netherlands.

Professor Langman questions the quality of the trials - only 26 of the 89 are judged to be of high standard - and argues that the results may be skewed in favour of homoeopathy because those with positive results are more likely to be published than those with negative results.

Of 100 trials of homoeopathy conducted, if 20 show a positive effect, of which 15 are published and 80 show no effect and five are published, a survey of the published trials will suggest positive trials outnumber negative by three to one. In fact, taking all 100 trials, negative outnumber positive by four to one.



Antimalarial drug that gave minister sleepless nights

Government scientists are urging caution about the use of the antimalarial drug, Lariam, which has been linked with mental symptoms such as hallucinations. Baroness Jay tells Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, about her experiences with the drug.

A trip to Uganda three years ago brought home to Baroness Jay the side effects of Lariam.

"I certainly did have a bad reaction and the more people I speak to the more seem to have had a problem with it. I started having extraordinary dreams and I found it very difficult to sleep. It is one of the conventional signs of a not very extreme reaction to the drug but I did not want to continue my travels like that," said Lady Jay, who will today issue the Government's new guidance on the drug.

The symptoms did not appear until after she, accompanied by her husband, Professor Michael Adler, the leading AIDS specialist, on a tour of African countries, had arrived in Uganda. Professor Adler

called colleagues at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London for advice and they recommended she switch to the less powerful combination of chloroquine and proguanil.

"That is what I had always taken before and what I have taken since. But the danger is people may stop taking anything and then expose themselves to the risk."

Package tourists to Africa and similar destinations are being advised to choose an alternative to the anti-malarial Lariam because of the risk of side effects from the drug.

The changed advice from the Government's Public Health Laboratory Service, fol-

lows growing concern about "neuro-psychiatric" symptoms linked with Lariam, which include convulsions, panic attacks, dizziness and insomnia.

A six-year-old girl died last year after taking the drug and hundreds of others claim to have suffered long term psychiatric effects and have formed an action group to seek compensation.

About 2,000 travellers from the UK develop malaria each year and between five and 10 die. Lariam, whose chemical name is mefloquine, is at least 90 per cent effective against the disease compared with chloroquine plus proguanil which is 70 per cent effective.

The new guidelines, drawn up by the Malaria Reference Laboratory headed by Professor David Bradley of the London School of Tropical Medicine and carried in the current issue of *Communicable Disease Report*, say that the risks of getting malaria have to be balanced against the risks of the drug. For people making a two-week visit to East Africa or the Gambia who take chloroquine and proguanil the risk of the disease is below one in 1,000 and Lariam is not justified.

However, for people staying for longer periods, Lariam is still the drug of choice. It is also the only drug effective in parts of China and Indo-China.

How a bad hair day can end up in hospital

Customers having a shampoo in a hair salon should beware the "beauty parlour syndrome". A hair-wash may be soothing but there is a small risk it could end with a trip to the accident and emergency department.

Doctors in Bath describe the case of a 42-year-old woman who suffered a stroke after bending her head back over a washbasin. As she left the hairdresser, her left foot began to drag. By evening she could not use her left leg at all, and when she woke next morning she could not stand.

In hospital, examination showed the lining of one of the arteries in her neck had torn away and was blocking the flow of blood to her brain. This can happen without any cause in older people or those with arterial disease, but the woman was healthy and all other tests were normal.

The woman recovered six months after her stroke, with only a little weakness in her left arm and hand. Dr David Bateman and colleagues, of the Royal United Hospital, Bath, writing in the *Lancet*, say that the damage was probably done when her head was bent back over the hairdresser's basin.

They warn that the position, adopted to keep soap out of the customer's eyes and to avoid smearing her mascara, is not without risk. "Hairdressers should be instructed not to over-extend the neck and should use the cushion usually provided," they write.

— Jeremy Laurance

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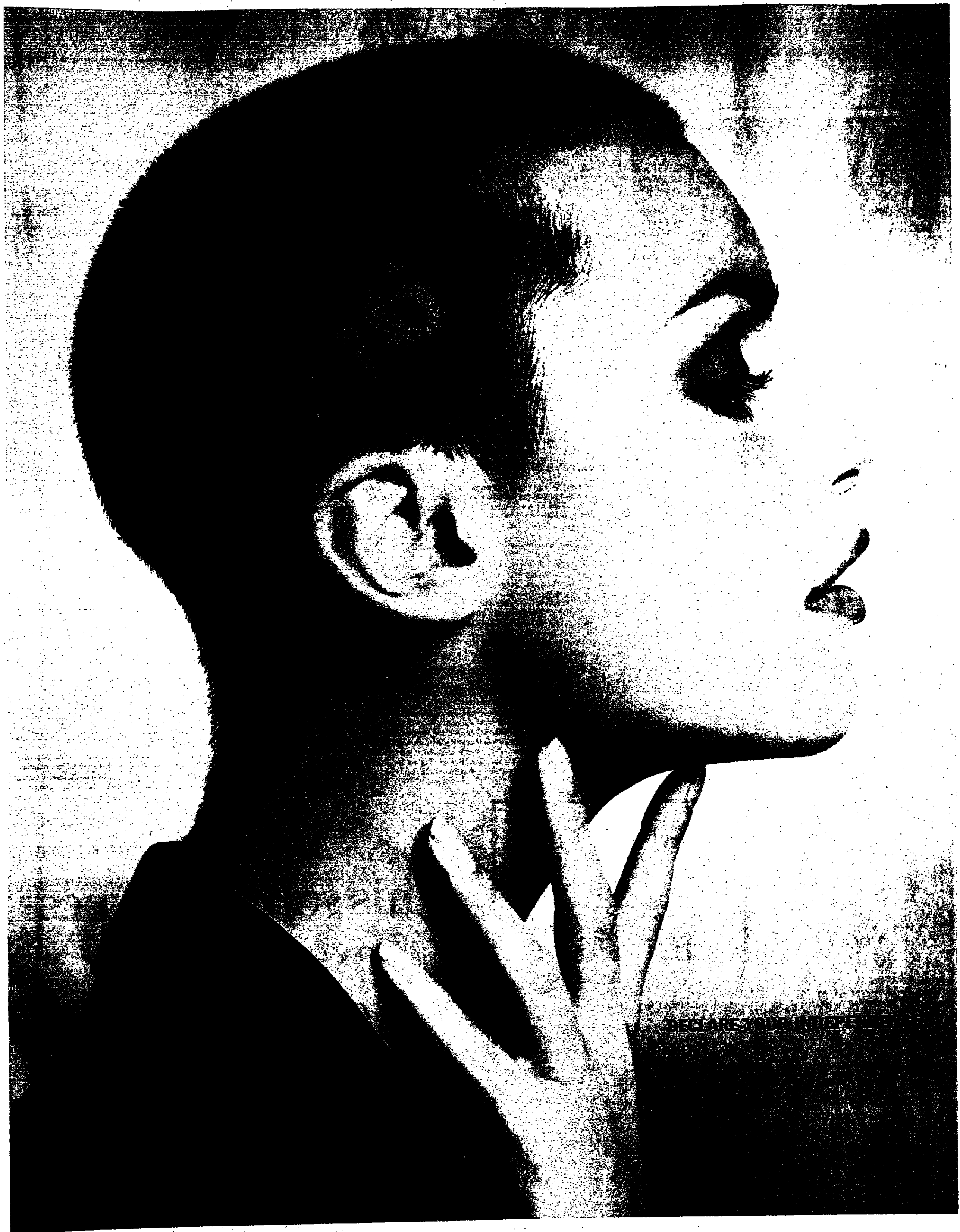
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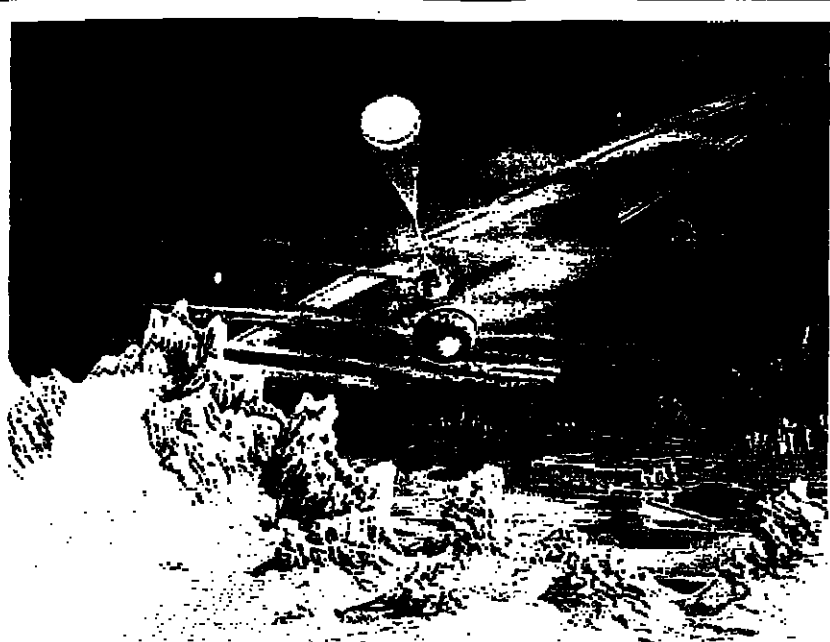
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Scientists dismiss atom risk from Saturn probe

The Cassini mission to the ringed planet Saturn is the first for 20 years. But will environmental opposition prevent it taking off on 13 October? What risks does the plutonium on board really pose? Charles Arthur, Science Editor, reports.

"I'm quite happy to be at the launch in Florida," said Paul Murdin of the British National Space Centre. "I think it's more far likely that I'll be killed in an aircraft accident or car crash on the way to Heathrow than by the spacecraft blowing up." Mr Murdin was one of a team of British scientists who lined up yesterday to talk about their hopes, and well-controlled fears, for the launch of the £2.2bn Cassini spacecraft (artist's impression above) on 13 October.

Along with many other British scientists, he hopes to be at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida next month, to see off the spacecraft, which will carry precision equipment to investigate the magnetic field around the planet Saturn, and land on Titan, one of its moons. It will arrive in November 2004.

But after more than a decade of planning, the Cassini mission – the first to the ringed planet for more than 20 years, and

very possibly the last during our lifetimes – is threatened by environmental groups and some scientists.

They say that the 33 kilograms of plutonium which power the scientific instruments on the probe pose an unacceptable risk to Florida and the rest of the Earth. If the spacecraft blew up on its launch, they contend that the deadly radioactive metal would be dispersed over a huge area and, in time, lead to deaths from radiation poisoning. Raw plutonium is highly poisonous: one millionth of a gram is thought to be a lethal dose. The amount on Cassini is the largest ever sent on a space mission.

However, the US space agency, Nasa, points out that the plutonium is held in a ceramic matrix so that even in an explosion, it would not be spread widely, and would be easy to detect and collect. It is needed to heat and power instruments in deep space. Solar panels are still too inefficient to operate so far from the Sun.

The final permission to launch must come from the US President, Bill Clinton. But it seems increasingly likely that despite last-minute lobbying the mission will go ahead.

Mr Murdin said, "The risks posed are those that we have learnt to accept in modern life; it's like sitting in London and having 747s flying near us into Heathrow. The bottom line is that everybody has done a good job on the risk management assessment."

Increase funds or care will worsen, dentists warn

Patients could find it increasingly difficult to get an NHS dentist unless funding is increased, leaders of the profession will tell the Government today when they submit a claim for an rise of at least 4.3 per cent in their fees.

The claim for an inflation-busting pay rise will increase the pressure on the Treasury to concede higher claims in the NHS. The dentists follow nurses, family doctors and other groups in seeking substantial pay increases, in spite of a warning this week by the Treasury to the public sector pay review bodies that they must keep their recommendations "low" and affordable.

The British Dental Association will tell the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body that more dentists are finding that they cannot sustain a practice that relies on NHS fees.

Claiming that dentistry is underfunded, the BDA is calling for funding for dental practices to be increased by £40m to help areas where there are problems of access to NHS dentistry.

Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent

Nine arrested in Guerin hunt

Police investigating the murder of Veronica Guerin, the Irish crime journalist, yesterday made nine arrests.

Officers detained five men and four women, aged between 30 and 50, in raids in Dublin. The nine, who were being questioned at police stations in the city, were suspected of having links to figures behind the murder of Ms Guerin last year.

Members of the group were being questioned in connection with continuing inquiries into the activities of drugs gang bosses, and into alleged drugs, money-laundering and firearms offences. So far one man has been charged with murdering Ms Guerin.

Abuse files found at tip

A council yesterday admitted an error after a man bought a computer at a rubbish tip to find it contained files on 50 child abuse victims. Lincolnshire County Council's social services department said guidelines were ignored in not erasing the files before the word processor was dumped.

Steve Norton, of Boston, paid £10 for the obsolete machine dumped by the department at a recycling depot at Spalding.

The computer repairman was shocked to find the details of how youngsters were abused and their names and addresses.

"The worst thing is it would have taken under a minute to wipe these records clean," he said. "This information could have fallen into unscrupulous hands – and it doesn't bear thinking about what could have happened then."

Speaking today social services manager Mike Boddy said: "I am obviously very disturbed to hear that confidential social services files have been disposed of in this fashion. A full investigation is under way to ascertain how this situation arose."

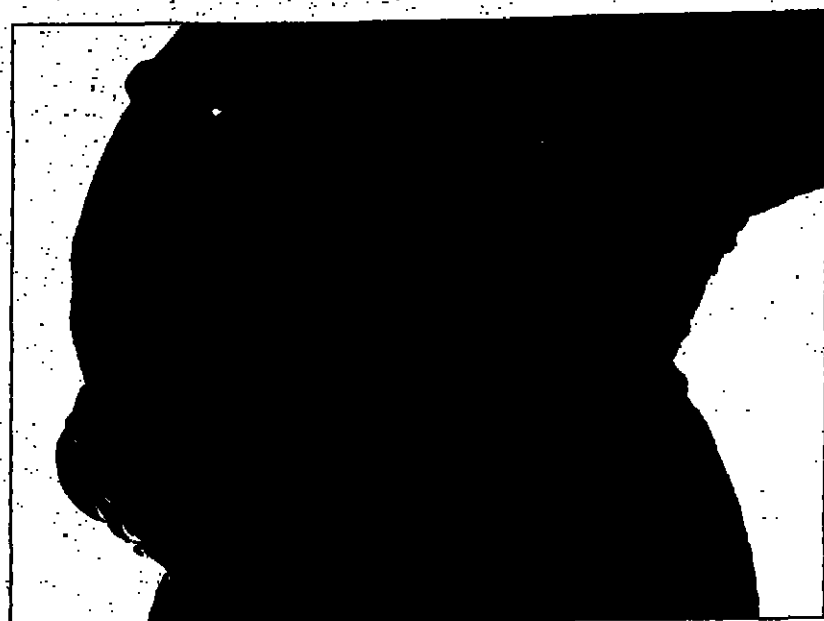
£48,000 for 'Casablanca' poster

A promotional poster for the film *Casablanca* was sold for £48,000 at Sotheby's yesterday – a record for a film poster.

The film starred Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman and featured the song "As Time Goes By".

The 2m by 2m linen-backed sheet, one of only two known to exist, was bought by Andrew Cohen, the chairman of the door-to-door housewares retailer Betterware. Mr Cohen, who has collected film posters for seven years, said: "It's a great film and a great poster. The greatest poster ever produced."

Aids research for pregnant 'unethical'



The United States is funding research aimed at helping Third World countries combat the spread of Aids from pregnant women to their children. But critics say the methods are knowingly endangering the lives of unborn infants.

David Osborne looks at the two sides of the argument.

A study into lowering the rate of transmission of Aids from pregnant mothers to their babies has been quietly under way for two years. An editorial in yesterday's *New England Journal of Medicine*, however, has blown away the lid.

Being pursued in countries in Africa, in Thailand and the Dominican Republic, the studies are likened by the journal to the infamous Tuskegee experiment which, between 1932 and 1972, left 399 black men in Alabama untreated for syphilis so researchers could follow the disease's course.

These studies, backed by both the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, seek to find cheaper alternatives to the treatment given in richer countries to pregnant women with Aids: heavy doses of the drug AZT.

The use of AZT on infected women in

pregnancy has been spectacularly successful. Research has shown that without AZT, roughly 25 per cent of women with Aids who give birth will produce babies with Aids. If women are treated with AZT, however, the rate falls to 8 per cent.

The problem in the Third World, however, is cost. AZT is an expensive drug and a course of treatment for each person costs \$1,000. The researchers are trying to discover if lesser amounts can still help.

This research, however, is controversial: while half the women in each study are receiving AZT in varying dosages, half of them are not. In other words: the researchers are knowingly condemning some of the yet-to-be-born infants – as many as 1,000, according to critics – to death by Aids.

Defending the work, the NIH said in a statement: "We continue to believe that these studies, as designed, are not only appropriate but essential to finding a way as quickly as possible to prevent the potential infection of millions of infants worldwide with HIV."

Defenders of the programme say that were the researchers not present in these countries none of the women involved would have had access to AZT anyway.

The Washington-based advocacy group, Public Citizen, is attempting to have the studies suspended. "We have turned our backs on these mothers and their babies," said its director, Dr Peter Lurie.

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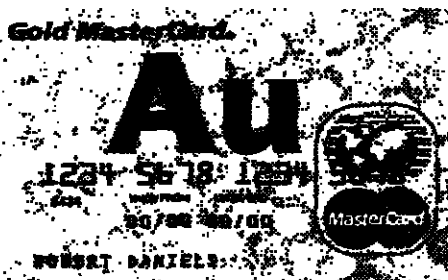
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Sensation as ink and egg are thrown at Hindley portrait

Red and blue ink and an egg were thrown over the picture of Myra Hindley at the controversial exhibition of Young British Art on its first day open to the public yesterday. David Lister watched controversy being orchestrated outside the Royal Academy, Tamsin Blanchard witnessed the vandalism inside.

Sensation it was titled. Sensation it was. First red and blue Indian ink, then an egg, were smuggled through the security cordons and hurled on to the controversial painting of Myra Hindley.

Before that we had shattered glass, megaphones, placards, images of media manipulation, tears confusion and bewilderment. And that was just in the courtyard.

Inside the Royal Academy there was a genuine sensation. A man was apprehended after throwing two canisters of ink at the much publicised painting of moors murderer Myra Hindley, made from casts of a child's handprints. Minutes later an egg was thrown.

Security guards, two police officers, and an Academy curator immediately disappeared into the room in a frantic attempt to clean the ink off before it dried.

Two 19-year-old art students saw the first man kick the painting from the wall. "You should be ashamed of yourself," he shouted at them as he splattered the canvas with red and blue ink. They then watched the second man throw an egg. I don't understand why there was such an extreme reaction to it," said one of the students. "It's quite good now though, she looks like she has been punched and has a bloody nose."

As they were lead to a wait-

ing police van one shouted to bewildered onlookers: "No one should be allowed to make money or fame out of the death of little children."

The Royal Academy said last night the painting by Marcus Harvey would be removed for cleaning, which was expected to take about a week. The attack was an unhappy end to a day that had been a piece of theatre in the courtyard outside the Academy, a conceptual happening that Damien Hirst and others could only envy.

It started at 4am when a rock was hurled through the window in Piccadilly next to the Royal Academy banner proclaiming the show. The rock was thought to have been hurled in protest against Harvey's painting of Hindley being shown. However, the window belonged to the Geological Society, its members normally devotees of rocks. They are asking the Royal Academy for compensation.

Scene two saw the Academy's wish to broaden its audience for art exhibitions swiftly answered. Police from the vice squad demanded to see the exhibition. They were shown round Jake and Dinos Chapman's naked mannequins and children with erect genitalia on their faces; saw Chris Ofili's *Virgin Mary* with its cut-outs of pornographic photographs; were allowed if they wished to lie in Tracey Emin's tent embroidered with the names of everyone she had slept with; stood in dignified silence by Ron Mueck's *Dead Dad*, a silicone and acrylic naked corpse on the floor; and feasted their eyes on Sarah Lucas's *Two Fried Eggs And A Kebab*, sculpted food resembling a woman's sexual organs on a table. The police left, unshocked, their reaction a damning piece of art criticism for the YBAs.

Outside the queues were forming, all ages but largely the students and backpackers the RA had hoped to attract. As they queued they were picketed by megaphone by the pressure group Mothers Against



Hated face: Marcus Harvey's controversial painting of Myra Hindley before the damaging attack yesterday at the opening of the Royal Academy's new show

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

Of the home visitors, art lover Harriet Cronin loved the "wonderfully deployed three dimensional humour", and vowed to return several times.

Tim Stevens, a 24-year-old archaeologist, mused: "I didn't find the Hindley painting offensive at all. I'm intrigued as to whether Charles Saatchi is going to sell it and the other works. It seems great advertising by a great ad man."

Spare a thought though for Mr and Mrs Lay who had come from Harwich and came out of the Academy saying angrily: "We believe that painting should beautify the world." Why then had they come? "We came to see the summer show. We thought it was still on."

Murder and Aggression, urging them not to view the Hindley picture.

Like the best conceptualism, their spontaneous shouts had the feel of being well rehearsed in their pithiness. "They used to hang killers on the gallows. Now they hang them in the gallery," they yelled.

And then they brought in to the courtyard Winnie Johnson, the 64-year-old mother of one of the moors' victims. The distraught Mrs Johnson was a poignant sideshow, and not a spectacle one would have wished to see at the entrance to an art exhibition. RA secretary David Gordon had invited her to view the painting to show her it did not glorify Hindley, she said. She would not enter the building though.

"Ask the head of the Royal Academy if he would go in and see the portrait of the person who murdered his child," she

sobbed rhetorically and inevitably to an invitation that had achieved very little.

By now the queue was lengthening and the first visitors were emerging from their view

of the brilliantly hung, provocative and ironic and striking mixture of the challenging and the plain silly, a modern day freak show.

First out was rock star Ian

Dury. "I don't know why it's called *Sensation*," he said, "because *Sensation* for me is about sex and pleasure."

Despite the cryptic quality of that remark, he had, he

said, enjoyed the show. So had numerous students, many from abroad. Julia Hardt from Germany found the exhibition "so provoking and disgusting, just amazing".

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What can we do for you?

Pounds take a hammering in artist's pecuniary performance



Question of values: Artist Myles Stawman

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

A performance artist spends his days in a disused factory hammering £1 coins. As he taps, the face of the Queen gradually disappears. A comment on the monarchy, a message about money, or just another piece of meaningless art? Clare Comer seeks an answer at the Living Art exhibit.

It is the ultimate anti-capitalist, anti-royalist gesture. Thousands of times a day, Myles Stawman raises his hammer, then brings it thundering down on a £1 coin. Another pound, another pound pounded.

The performance art exhibit in Bethnal Green, east London, has been a year in the making, but recent events have lent a certain poignancy to the gradual erosion of Her Majesty's face.

"We're not going to smash the state," remarked Mr Stawman, 29, continuing to tap while looking up from his work. "The way it's going to go is drip, drip, tap, tap. It's that feeling of it disappearing. I don't think

it's going to be like the Bastille, it's going to be more like this."

The hammer just happens to be By Royal Appointment and the floor painted red (as in carpet), but there is, apparently, much more to this solo performance than a simple comment on the monarchy. The work is entitled *Pecuniary*, as in the root of pecuniary and peculiar, the European currency plus a "P". It is, in Mr Stawman's words, a "peculiar, pecuniary performance".

Visitors to the disused belt factory, where Mr Stawman has been hammering away in the squat position for 16 hours a day for the past nine days, have paid their £1 entry fee and then watched their coins dented and mashed along with the rest. "What is this?" they ask. "A remark on the meaning of money, of art, of what?"

Mr Stawman mentions Black Wednesday and makes a few suggestions. "What is money? The quiddity of a quid, the essence of a pound, the crashing of the pound? ... It's about spending all your time working for virtually nothing ... It's about artists in their studios doing their stuff - for love, not for money ... If you so wish, you could see it as anti-contemporary art."

Some people have found the solo performance harrowing. Although Mr Stawman, looking part-monk, part-prisoner, has developed a repertoire of swings, strokes and swipes, the monotony of his work has got to them. "They've just found it too much," he said. "They think: 'He's doing this all the time. Is he mad? They've scarpered pretty sharpish.'"

Perhaps it takes a fellow artist to appreciate the exhibit. For when Phillip Harvey, a 31-year-old painter, entered the room, he was enthralled. "When I do things many, many times, patterns emerge," he began. "It's about process. The way things start to coalesce and have a certain logic. Bridget Riley said the secret to art is in the materials."

For Mr Stawman himself, the hammering has been an "empowering" experience. Over the course of the week, he has changed his attitude to money. He says he feels "much lighter" towards it now.

And what of the defaced coins? He has not quite decided whether to bury them or keep them, but is edging towards the latter option. "Maybe they'll take on a value as an art commodity," he debated. "Yeah, that would be handy."

Black South Africans claim media racist and unpatriotic

Public hearings this week into the white-controlled media's collusion with apartheid were marked by bitter criticisms from black journalists about the past. But it is the future that is causing more concern, for black columnists and intellectuals are clamouring for a purge of the still white-dominated media, arguing it is as racist as ever. The signs for press freedom are ominous. Mary Braid reports.

It was a heated three days. At the end of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's hearings into the media's role in apartheid, Jon Qwelane, one of South Africa's most influential black columnists, was characteristically uncompromising. "I want to charge all the mainstream newspapers - English or Afrikaans - with collusion with apartheid, and having a hand ... in the subsequent murders of tens of thousands of black people by the apartheid army and police." He added: "I am not off my rocker."

Forget the film *Cry Freedom*

and the brave white editor Donald Woods. In a country where "white liberal" is now a term of derision, Mr Qwelane allows the media of that time only the occasional flash of apartheid-era courage. At the hearings, other black journalists talked about the watering down of copy by a media which conspired to keep South Africa - and blacks in particular - ignorant.

They complained bitterly about humiliation in white liberal newsrooms; their allocation of tin mugs while white colleagues were dished the porcelain and rules which forced them to use blacks-only toilets.

They spoke of the frustration of always being paid less than whites and never being trained or promoted.

The past, of course, has many versions. The print giants Times Media Limited and Independent Newspapers (formerly the Argus Group) which dominate today have changed owners since apartheid crumbled and like to concentrate on the transformation of their companies. The Independent group admits its titles could have done more, while TML argues it was not apartheid's poodle and did what it could within the confines of the times.

Black criticism of the "white liberal" press is not just about the past. Thami Mazwai, head of Mafube Publishing and a former



Moeysien Williams (left), editor of the Cape Town Argus, and Ivan Fallon, chief executive of Independent Newspapers wrestle with apartheid's legacy

Photograph: Chris Adlam

Argus employee, insists the "apartheid mindset" lives on at his old workplace. And Don Mattera, liberation poet and former journalist, this week

called for a complete purge of the media to rid it of racism. With TML now in black hands, black journalists see their fight for control shifting

from the boardroom to the newsroom where whites still dominate. "We are always about to fulfil our potential," says one young black journal-

ist. "But somehow we never manage to get there."

Black journalists' dissatisfaction with the pace of change is understandable. But their complaints are part of a larger, more ominous anti-media campaign begun by Thabo Mbeki, President Nelson Mandela's heir apparent, and developed by prominent members of the new black establishment.

Mr Mbeki has condemned the media for negative portrayals of the new South Africa, particularly in relation to crime. The press, he complains, is running down the country. In this fledgling democracy, in a continent where few states place any value on free speech or press freedom, the antagonism is worrying.

President Mandela has also criticised journalists but Mr Mbeki is different; his pronouncements have led many journalists to conclude he does not like the media and does not understand its role in a democracy. Mr Mbeki, it is rumoured, is orchestrating - or at least encouraging - the attacks by black writers and intellectuals who insist the media is the new enemy within, undermining government and hampering Africanisation.

And no matter how impeccable a white journalist's anti-apartheid credentials, there is no escape from criticism which at times degenerates into racist diatribe. The editors of the liberal *Sunday Independent* and the *Guardian and Mail* were last month accused of being unpatriotic by Mr Qwelane and Mr Mazwai after revealing an arms deal the government would rather have kept secret. Unpatriotic is just the charge levelled at them many times by the old National Party government. The white editors' sin was to reveal South Africa's plans to

sell arms to Saudi Arabia, a disclosure the government claimed endangered the creation of 30,000 jobs. The Saudi story was part of a wider public debate about the ANC's promise to inject ethics into the arms industry. Nonetheless Mr Qwelane denounced the scoop as an "abuse" of press freedom.

Mr Mazwai went further, reassuring defence minister Joe Modise he would do all in his power to "ensure that press freedom serves the interests of South Africa rather than assuage the egos of some Euro-South Africans". Mr Qwelane even denounced dissenting black journalists as "Uncle Toms".

The drawing up of a wider Eurocentric conspiracy is left to Professor William Makgoba, an academic at the University of the Witwatersrand. "The media has become a major obstacle to (social) transformation and the African renaissance," he argues,

claiming the media deliberately negates African excellence to promote "an endangered conservative liberal agenda".

Mr Makgoba argues that the debate is really about national identity and the tension between "two societies living on different wavelengths in the same geographic space". Some of his criticisms are valid. The media is trying to cater to black interests - it is in its commercial interest.

But his insistence that the media is deliberately preventing social change is unsubstantiated. Most worrying, he insists the media cannot reform itself and this week called for a government inquiry into the press and reform of the sector. Press freedom, says Mr Mazwai, must serve South Africa and its national objectives. A minister from the disgraced old National Party could not have put it better.



New era: South Africa is less tolerant of liberal journalists such as Donald Woods, played by Kevin Kline, here with Denzil Washington as Steve Biko in *Cry Freedom*

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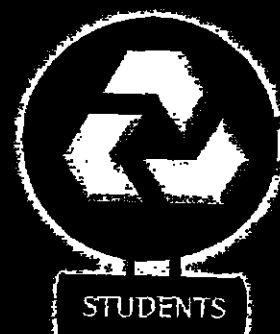
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Victory for presenters as Birt backs down

Changes planned for the BBC's news programmes have been delayed after a torrent of protest by presenters and editors. Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, reports on John Birt's first big U-turn after years of pushing through reforms

John Birt and Tony Hall, the BBC's most senior managers, have backed away from a fight with top newsreaders and editors after the chairman of the BBC governors expressed alarm at the weight of opposition to their plans to change the corporation's news operation.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC governors, called Mr Birt, director-general of the BBC and Mr Hall, head of the BBC news directorate, into an urgent meeting yesterday after which it was announced that the deadline for the implementation of a merger of news services had been delayed by six weeks.

Those opposing the changes, who included James Naughtie and John Humphrys from the *Today* Programme, Anna Ford from the *Six O'Clock News* and Jeremy Paxman from *Newsnight*, are known to believe the move indicates a significant concession.

"I don't see how Bland can haul Tony and Birt in and not do anything about it," said one senior presenter. "If Bland and the governors are going to help in producing something that

Tony Hall and his staff can live with it's one of the best bits of news the BBC's had in years.

"We will now go into constructive negotiations with them. The sticking point is still editorial independence for programmes."

The focus of the revolt will now turn to the BBC's board of governors, which includes members of the great and the good such as Bill Jordan, the former union leader, and Sir Richard Eyre, director of the National Theatre.

In the past the board has rubber-stamped changes proposed by Birt, but BBC insiders believe the size of the rebellion leaves them with little choice but to look for a compromise.

"The bottom line is that they know they cannot implement the changes because the crucial jobs will not be filled," said another senior source. "Or if they are filled, it will be by people who will not have the seniority or respect of their staff."

The changes planned involve the creation of five "super-editors" to run all news programmes, but none of the BBC's current senior editors is willing to apply for the jobs.

"I don't think we will see this drag out six weeks," said one senior editor last night. "There has already been a lot of talking today."

It is being suggested inside the building that the proposal to merge the production of news programmes under five editors is the idea of news chief Tony Hall and that John Birt has no appetite for a battle with his



John Birt: Backed down over reforms in the BBC news operation after a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the board of governors

Photograph: John Potter

most famous radio and television stars.

The BBC management's rapid climbdown yesterday meant that editors were still being told at their morning meeting that they must calm their staff and apply for the new jobs by the end of the weekend as Sir Christopher was ordering the climbdown.

Mr Hall was forced to cancel a lunch with journalists at the Royal Television Society conference in Cambridge where he was due to be grilled about the revolt.

Mr Hall told the *One O'Clock News*: "I think that we might need more time for con-

sultation and I am quite happy to give people that time."

Earlier on Radio 4's *Today* programme James Naughtie had to bow out of interviewing Mr Hall because he was a signatory to a letter protesting about the changes that had been sent to Mr Hall on Wednesday.

The pressure on the BBC increased yesterday when Gerald Kaufman MP, chair of the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee, joined other politicians in condemning the changes. "The BBC is a shambles, it is extraordinarily badly run and it needs a complete upheaval in the way it is run."

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IND 15/9

Editors allege anti-Semitism

As if the rebellion by senior broadcasters were not enough of a headache for the BBC, the corporation now faces charges of anti-Semitism. Four employees claim that discrimination was rife in their department for eight years. As Kathy Marks reports, they will argue their case at an industrial tribunal.

Four Jewish film editors have accused the BBC of dragging its heels in investigating their complaints of anti-Semitism, according to a report in today's *Jewish Chronicle*.

At a preliminary session before an industrial tribunal in

central London earlier this week, the four - Adele Rubin, Steve Sack, Steve Sampson and Leigh Scheindlinger - were given leave to bring a claim of racial discrimination at a full hearing in November.

Their barrister, Andrew Short, told the tribunal that they had complained to managers on numerous occasions between 1985 and 1993 about allegedly being passed over for promotions and regradings, and not receiving their fair share of work.

"It was felt that allegations of anti-Semitism were not taken seriously," he said. The film editors were assured that the problems would be dealt with internally, he added, but the situation did not improve.

Mr Short said that it was not being alleged that the BBC operated a policy against Jewish employees. It was "not a poli-

cy, but a practice", he said. "There was a culture of discrimination."

"A practice developed in the 1980s motivated by anti-Semitism. That practice continued in the 1990s, because of the inertia [from the BBC management] that had built up."

The four worked as editors in the BBC's post-production and graphic design department during the period.

Mr Scheindlinger left in 1993 to work as a freelance director, while the other three remain employed by the Corporation.

The preliminary hearing was told that the BBC finally held an internal inquiry in 1995, and also commissioned a separate investigation by Vivienne Brown, a regional officer for the Commission of Racial Equality, who acted in a personal capacity.

The tribunal ruled that Ms Brown's report would form the basis of the employees' case when it was heard in November.

John Bowers, counsel for the BBC, had argued that complaints of racial discrimination dating back to the 1980s were "out of time" - beyond the legal period in which they needed to be lodged. He added that the case would be difficult to substantiate because of the time lapse.

The four editors are being backed by Bectu, the broadcasting trade union. A Bectu spokesman yesterday welcomed the ruling that their claims would be tested before a full tribunal hearing.

The BBC yesterday declined to comment. "We can't say anything about the case until it has been concluded," a spokesman said.

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14/EGYPT

Ten die in Cairo attack on tourists

After a lull of almost 18 months, Islamic militants have struck again in Cairo, killing ten people, including six German tourists. The dead were among a party on a bus outside the popular Egyptian Museum. The militants aim to damage the government by damaging the economy - and they do that by driving out the tourists.

"It was like *Gunfight at the OK Corral*," said Fabian Muir, an Australian tourist in Cairo. "Totally out of control. It went on for 20 minutes. It seemed to go on forever."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, in which at least nine people were wounded, but Egyptian security sources said police had arrested three suspected militants and were looking for two more.

The sources said all of those who died were inside the bus parked outside the Egyptian Museum at Tahrir Square, one of Cairo's busiest areas.

An Interior Ministry state-



The wreck of the bombed tourist bus stands outside the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square, one of the busiest areas of Cairo

Photograph: Reuters

ment identified one gunman as Saber Farahat Abu el-Ela, who was put in a mental hospital after he fired on tourists at the

Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in Cairo four years ago. Ela's brother Mahmoud was also arrested after the attack.

the statement said. Security sources said the third gunman was shot in the head and was in a critical condition. Security

sources said one of the gunmen climbed aboard the bus, reportedly to be carrying 33 German tourists, and started

spraying the interior with gunfire.

When he saw several tourists escaping through the rear exit, the gunman threw a petrol bomb inside. He then ran out and put a second bomb under the bus.

Other gunmen fired at three or more buses parked near the museum, security sources said.

Thousands of tourists visit the Egyptian Museum every day. The sprawling building houses more than 100,000 ancient relics, the most outstanding being the tomb and gold mask of Tutankhamun.

Security sources suspect the gunmen were Muslim militants who have been seeking to topple the government since 1992. The attack was the first ma-

jor militant operation in the capital since April 1996, when suspected militants shot dead 18 Greek tourists and wounded 14 outside a hotel.

It was one of the bloodiest attacks against the Egyptian tourism industry since militants began sporadically targeting tourists in 1992 as a way to damage the country's economy in their fight against the government.

Before yesterday, Muslim militants had killed 26 foreigners and wounded 73.

The German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, expressed horror at the bomb attack, saying it was the third disaster to hit Germans abroad this week.

"I learned with horror of the bomb attack on a tourist bus in Cairo in which there were many dead and injured, including Germans. It is the third disaster this week," Mr Kinkel said.

News of the Cairo bombing followed two air disasters within the last five days that killed 29 German soldiers and diplomats.

Five Germans died on Wednesday in a helicopter crash in Bosnia on a UN peace-keeping mission, and 24 were killed off the coast of south-west Africa on Saturday when their army transport crashed, possibly in a mid-air collision with a US military aircraft. Reuters

Is it safe to travel along the Nile? If you're careful ...

Yesterday's terrorist attack in Cairo was the latest example of tourists being used as pawns in wider political struggles. While British tour operators are still sending holidaymakers to Egypt, there is evidence that campaigns to scare off visitors are working. Simon Calder, Travel Editor, reports.

It stops short of warning British travellers against visiting Egypt - a move which would lead holiday companies to suspend all operations there.

The tour operator Kuoffi, which has 280 clients in Cairo at present, has offered them the option to move to Luxor or to return to the UK. Thomas Cook Holidays has given customers booked to travel within the next week the chance to cancel without penalty.

In the longer term, travel companies' programmes will be trimmed back, and extra security provided for organised groups. American tourists, whose numbers fell steeply during and after the Gulf war, are likely to be further disinclined to visit.

Backpackers, who use local transport and stay in low-budget accommodation, have so far avoided being targeted by the terrorists. Evidence from war-torn countries such as Sri Lanka suggests that few will be deterred from visiting Egypt.

The broader danger is that more terrorist groups around the world will latch on to targeting tourists. The fashion began in the mid-1980s when the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas of Peru declared they would attack visitors. Peru's visitor numbers have still not recovered.

In Cuba, tourism has proved remarkably successful in shoring up an economy hit by the ending of Soviet subsidies and the US blockade. But the industry has been threatened by a series of bomb attacks on hotels in Havana. The most recent killed an Italian tourist.

While Cuban officials blame anti-Castro exiles in Miami for the campaign, travel companies are busily cutting prices. The grisly pattern will be repeated in Egypt: after carnage, cheap holidays are bound to follow.

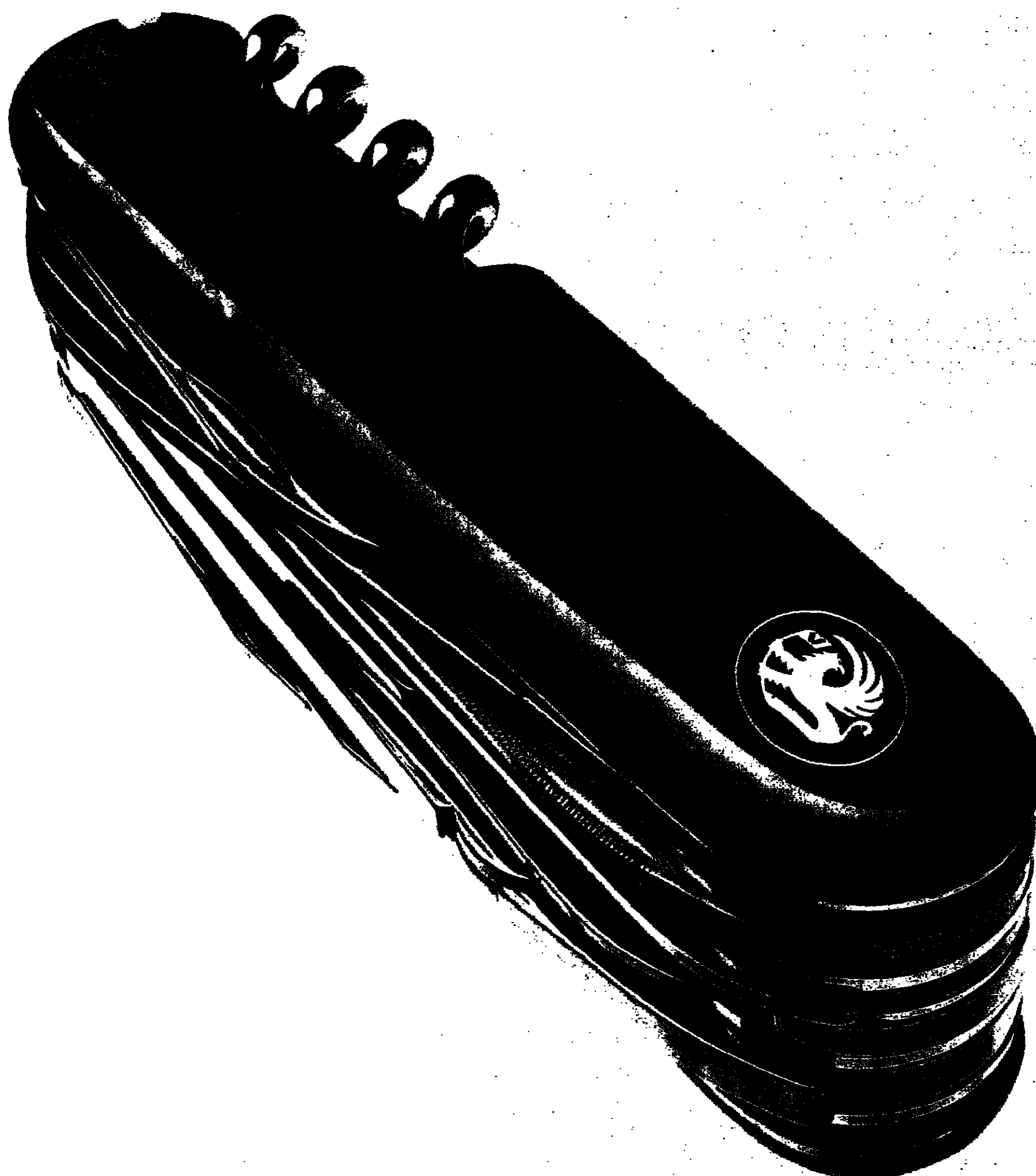
Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit: 0171-238 4503, or fax 0171-238 4545; on the Internet, at <http://www.fco.gov.uk> or on BBC2 Ceefax from page 470.

The timing was telling. Just as news was emerging of the attack by Islamic militants on a tourist bus outside the Egyptian Museum in central Cairo, the latest "Autumn Specials" brochure arrived on my desk from the tour operator Hayes and Jarvis. It revealed special deals such as holidays in Egypt for under £250, and a week in Cuba for only £389. As the fashion for placing tourists in the frontline of political struggles spreads, demand for destinations such as these is dwindling.

To gauge the impact that yesterday's attack will have on Egypt's tourism industry, imagine a bomb exploding on a coach full of visitors outside the British Museum.

The economic consequences for Egypt will be serious. The campaign by Islamic fundamentalists against foreign visitors began in 1992, and until yesterday had killed 26. Since the most serious attack last April, in which 18 Greek tourists were shot dead outside their hotel, the security forces in Egypt had enjoyed some success in stifling the campaign.

Yesterday's atrocity is certain to lead to widespread holiday cancellations. The Foreign Office updated its travel advice for Egypt shortly after the attack. It points out that 320,000 British people visited the country last year, but says: "The latest attack shows security cannot be guaranteed."



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Jerusalem for the Jews – one rich American's big idea

He may be just a 68-year-old retired physician and bingo parlour owner but Dr Irving Moskowitz this week plunged relations between Palestinians and Israel into crisis. The American multi-millionaire's financing of the takeover of two houses in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Ras al-Amoud in Jerusalem provided a glimpse of a sinister agenda. *Patrick Cockburn in Israel reports*

He is described by his many enemies as Israel's most dangerous pyromaniac. "He is a man who lives far away with a big box of matches, facing a huge keg of gunpowder, which is Jerusalem," says Ornan Yekutieli, a member of the city council. One opposition leader is demanding that security police prevent Dr Moskowitz returning to his home in Miami Beach, Florida, so he can see the explosive consequences of what he has wrought in Jerusalem.

But for the Jewish settlers and their supporters in Ras al-Amoud, Dr Moskowitz is a hero. This week, wearing a black skullcap, he nailed the mezuzah, the box containing a prayer, to the doorpost of the newly-acquired villa in Ras al-Amoud, as is traditional in Jewish households. Yesterday, he was close to a "compromise" agreement giving him much of what he wanted, with Avigdor Kahalani, the Public Security Minister, whose political party he bankrolled in the last election.

For the first time Dr Meskowitz, long influential in Israel, has stepped out of the shadows, meeting with emissaries from Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, looking for a way out of the crisis. Not surprisingly many Israelis asked why a retired doctor from Florida, using the immense profits of one of the world's biggest bingo parlours, should be determining their future.

It is not the first time that Dr Moskowitz has stoked the flames of conflict in Jerusalem. Last year he helped finance the opening of an extension to a tunnel running under the Muslim quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem. Within days fighting erupted between the Israeli army and Palestinians which left 65 Palestinians and

15 Israelis dead, while over 1,000 people were wounded.

Dr Moskowitz makes no secret of his immediate objective. It is to Judaize Jerusalem (though the city already contains 400,000 Jews and 170,000 Palestinians). His focus is on the Old City and its immediate neighbourhood. He says that he wants "to do everything I possibly can to help reclaim Jerusalem for the Jewish people".

He sees the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians as "a slide towards concessions, surrender and Israeli suicide". Since 1993, through contributions to right-wing lobbying groups in the US and Mr Netanyahu's election campaign, he has done all he can to overturn them.

The source of Dr Moskowitz's original wealth lay in a string of private hospitals he began to acquire in southern California in the late 1950s. But the funds used to buy up houses in the Old City of Jerusalem have a more bizarre origin. In 1988 he was asked by the council of Hawaiian Gardens, the smallest city in Los Angeles County, to take over a "charity" bingo hall, whose previous owner was facing criminal charges. Dr Moskowitz turned the 800-seat bingo parlour round and by



Netanyahu: bankrolled by Moskowitz, now looking for a compromise

1991 it was taking in \$33m in profits. A significant proportion of this – through the Irving I Moskowitz Foundation – ended up in Jerusalem.

It was not merely that Dr Moskowitz was a rich man with a political agenda. His importance is that his money flowed to people of the deepest fanaticism, notably to Ateret Cohanim (Crown of the Priest), a group dedicated to taking over Jerusalem.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s Ateret Cohanim became a much feared name among Palestinians in the city. Its militants would suddenly swoop on their houses in the middle of the *night* and take them over. Palestinians maintained – and this was subsequently backed by a government report – that the legal basis for these takeovers was flimsy. But once blue-and-white Israeli flags had sprouted from a building it was difficult for a Palestinian to get the courts or the Israeli police to evict the occupiers.

The takeover of Palestinian property often appeared deliberately geared to provoke. Ariel Sharon, the Israeli general held responsible by Palestinians for the Sabra and Chatila massacres in Lebanon, suddenly acquired a house in the Old City in 1987. St John's Hospice in the Christian Quarter was occupied in 1990. Overall some 600 settlers were introduced in the teeth of Palestinian resistance.

Ras Moskowitz defends himself against charges of ethnic cleansing by stealth. He says: "Objecting to Jews living among Arabs is racism of the worst kind." But the defence is naive. No sooner were settlers established in Ras al-Aumud this week than the soldiers who guard them starting making life unliveable for Palestinians in the street, who were repeatedly stopped, questioned and searched. Jubilant settlers celebrated their victory like a conquering army.

A "compromise", which was close yesterday, whereby the settler families will withdraw for the moment but be replaced with workmen renovating the building, is a victory for Dr Moskowitz. Such arrangements, aimed at deflecting international criticism, have in the past always ended in settlers taking over buildings. If Mr Netanyahu prefers compromise with the extreme nationalist settlers before compromise with the Palestinians the result will be violence -- but by then Dr Moskowitz may be on the flight back to Miami.



Money talks: Moskowitz, left, wants to do all he can 'to help reclaim Jerusalem for the Jewish people' Photograph: AFP

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1990

Check Your Status

Politician shoots rival in Albania's parliament

Tirana (Reuters) — The Albanian Prime Minister, Fatos Nano, yesterday appealed for calm after a member of his ruling Socialist Party shot and seriously wounded a political rival inside the country's parliament building.

A police spokesman said Socialist MP Gafur Mazreku had been charged with the attempted murder of opposition deputy Azem Hajdari, a former student leader who in 1990 helped topple the country's 45-year Stalinist regime.

One witness said Mr Mazreku had shot Mr Hajdari four times with a pistol in the most serious political incident since a general election in June largely subdued widespread violence across the Balkan nation. The two politicians had earlier been involved in a fracas in the chamber on Tuesday.

Australia under fire from states that may disappear under water

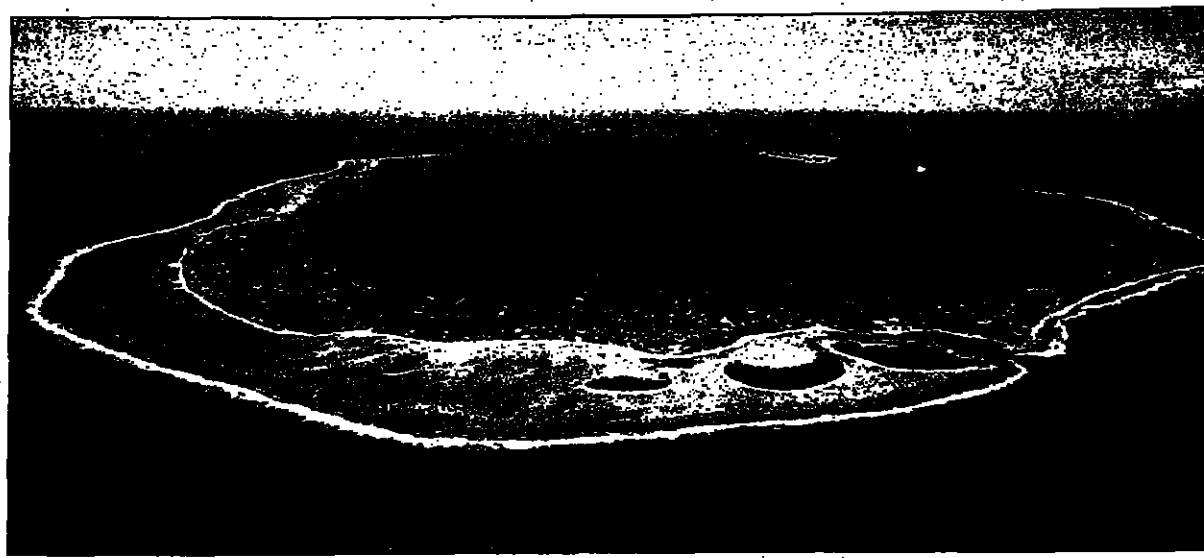
If sea levels rise, then some Pacific islands might disappear altogether. So they are pressing Australia to help prevent global warming. But, as Robert Milliken reports, they aren't getting much of a hearing.

Tiwalu is so small you can barely find it on the map, and life under its South Pacific palms would not seem to pose too many problems. But yesterday, this tiny country joined with other Pacific island nations to attack their big neighbour, Australia, which they accuse of contributing to the global warming and rising sea levels that are threatening to wipe them off the face of the earth.

Australia and its Prime Minister, John Howard, came under fire at the summit in the Cook Islands of the South Pacific Forum. The Australians have steadfastly refused to how to pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to below international targets, claiming their country is a special case because of its small population (18 million) and high economic dependence on fossil fuels.

Australia's Pacific island neighbours yesterday fuelled the row by declaring that enough was enough. They accused Australia of hypocrisy, claiming that its intransigence on greenhouse gases potentially poses a bigger environmental threat to the Pacific than the French nuclear tests which Australia vociferously opposed two years ago.

Tiwalu is an extreme case



Water World: Pacific Islanders are meeting in Rarotonga, left, to discuss the implications of global warming. Photograph: Colorific

ahead of the forum, Mr Pae-niu joined with leaders of four other island states, Nauru, Niue, Kiribati and the Cook Islands, to pass a resolution calling on rich countries such as Australia to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2005 to one-fifth below their 1990 levels.

Mr Howard yesterday appeared to dismiss the islanders' claims that Australia's environmental policies were helping to put their futures at risk.

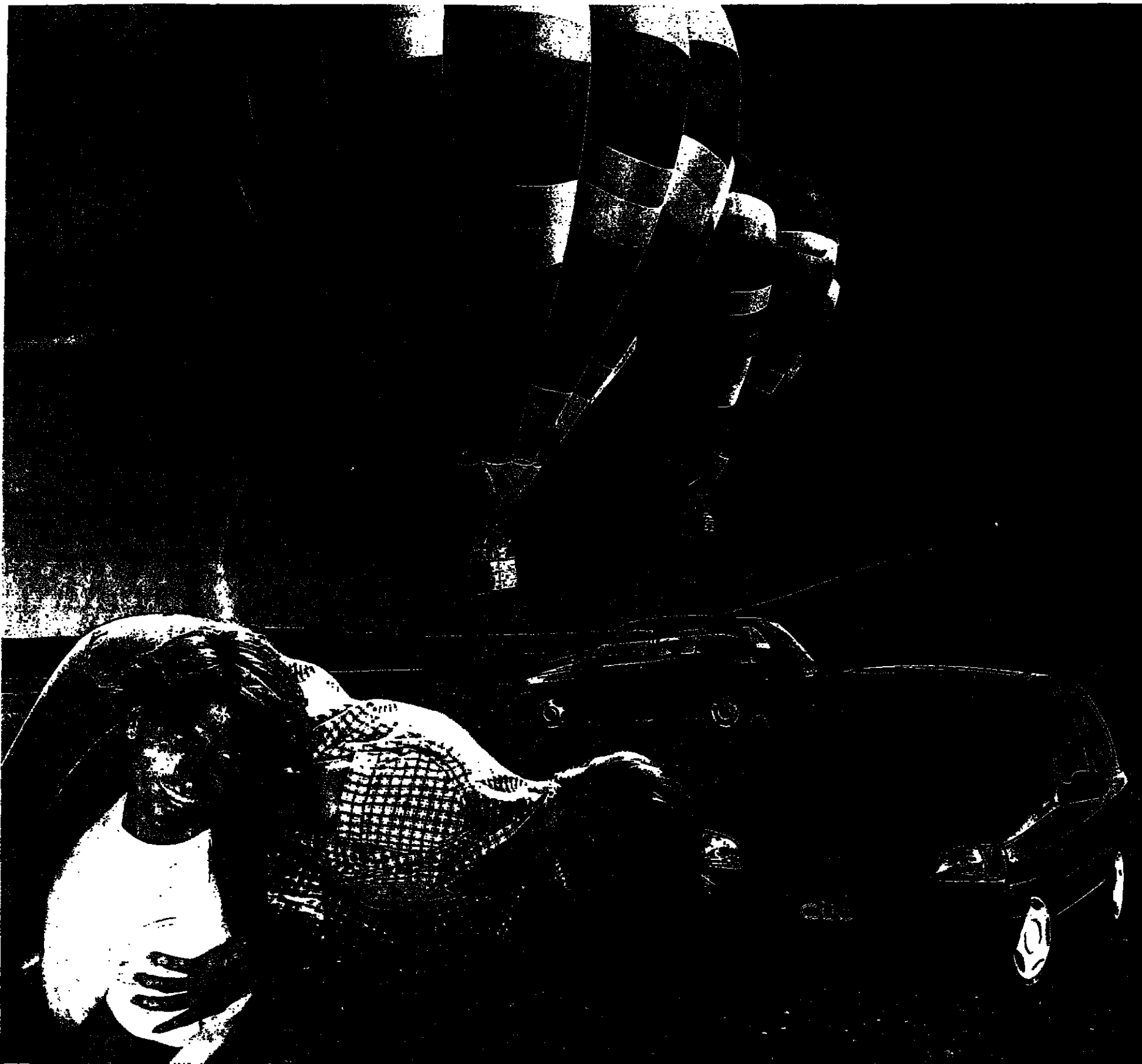
"That is an extremely exaggerated statement and not one that impresses me," he said.

of the nations who believe their very existence is threatened. The coral atolls on which its 9,000 inhabitants

make their livelihoods from coconuts and fishing are barely six metres above sea level. According to Bikenibeu Pae-

niu, Tuvalu's Prime Minister, unless something is done to stop global warming over the next 20 years, then his country

could be the world's first to disappear under rising sea levels. At a meeting last weekend



Helicopter pilot dies helping prisoner escape

A helicopter pilot taking part in an escape attempt from Sittard prison in south-eastern Netherlands died when his craft hit the prison wall and burst into flames, a justice ministry spokesman said. The prisoner, a Colombian jailed for drug trafficking, was not injured seriously in the incident. The pilot had attempted to land in the prison courtyard when the prisoners were outside on their daily exercise. AFX

Lebed offers Rokhlin a hand

Retired general Alexander Lebed, a presidential hopeful in Russia, offered to join forces with Lev Rokhlin, another prominent general who opposes the Kremlin. A statement, signed by Lebed on behalf of his Dignity and Motherland political group, expressed willingness to "co-operate closely" with a movement Rokhlin is forming. Reuters

Plea for Ugandan children

Human rights groups called on the Ugandan and Sudanese governments to halt the systematic abuse of children involved in fighting in northern Uganda. Unicef, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch released reports detailing physical and mental abuses inflicted on thousands of children who they said had been abducted by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Reuters

Hope for Western Sahara

Polisario leader Mohamed Abdelaziz said accords reached with Morocco laid the ground for resolving the Western Sahara conflict and ending a colonial situation of injustice lasting 23 years. They have agreed a code of conduct covering a planned referendum to decide the fate of the territory. Reuters

Malaysia's PM dons mask

Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad appeared yesterday in public for the first time wearing a mask — a white disposable type that covered his nose and mouth — as a smoky haze, blamed on bush fires in Indonesia, continued to shroud much of the country. The smoke has also hit Singapore and Brunei.

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Shanghai surprise as ruthless President ousts aging rivals

Two of the most powerful men in China have been dumped at the party congress. The announcement was a triumph for President Jiang Zemin, as he bids to establish himself as paramount leader following the death of Deng Xiaoping. Teresa Poole looks at how the man from Shanghai has won out.



Jiang Zemin: Clearing the way for his protégés

"It was a unified congress. It was a victorious congress," said Mr Jiang as the military band prepared to strike up the "Internationale" at the closing ceremony of the week-long party meeting.

It had certainly been a victory for the man who will lead China into the 21st century. In the first major political reshuffle since the death of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in February, Mr Jiang managed to get rid of his main rival, Qiao Shi, until now ranked third in the hierarchy. Mr Jiang also forced the retirement of the most senior general, Liu Huaqing.

Yesterday's key event of the 15th Party Congress was the closed-door "election" by the 2,000-odd delegates of a new 193-person Central Committee. In fact, by the time the votes were cast, the number of candidates had already been whittled down to the number of seats on offer.

But this was the result of two days of tense factional manoeuvrings and pre-elections in which Mr Jiang's allies appeared to score the victories they were seeking.

The outcome was that Mr Qiao and General Liu both

the course in the post-Deng era.

In the past 18 months Mr Qiao was the one senior figure who failed to pay public lip-service to Mr Jiang as Mr Deng's anointed successor, and relations between the two were said to be increasingly frosty.

The friction became more acute in recent months because Mr Jiang wanted to remove Mr Qiao from his position as chairman of China's parliament, the National People's Congress, in order to replace him with Li Peng, who under the constitution must retire as prime minister next March. That switch may now be on the cards.

The expressions on people's faces yesterday in the Great Hall of the People said it all. A beaming Mr Li posed for photographs as he posted his ballot papers, while a very stiff-faced Mr Qiao squeezed out a very forced smile.

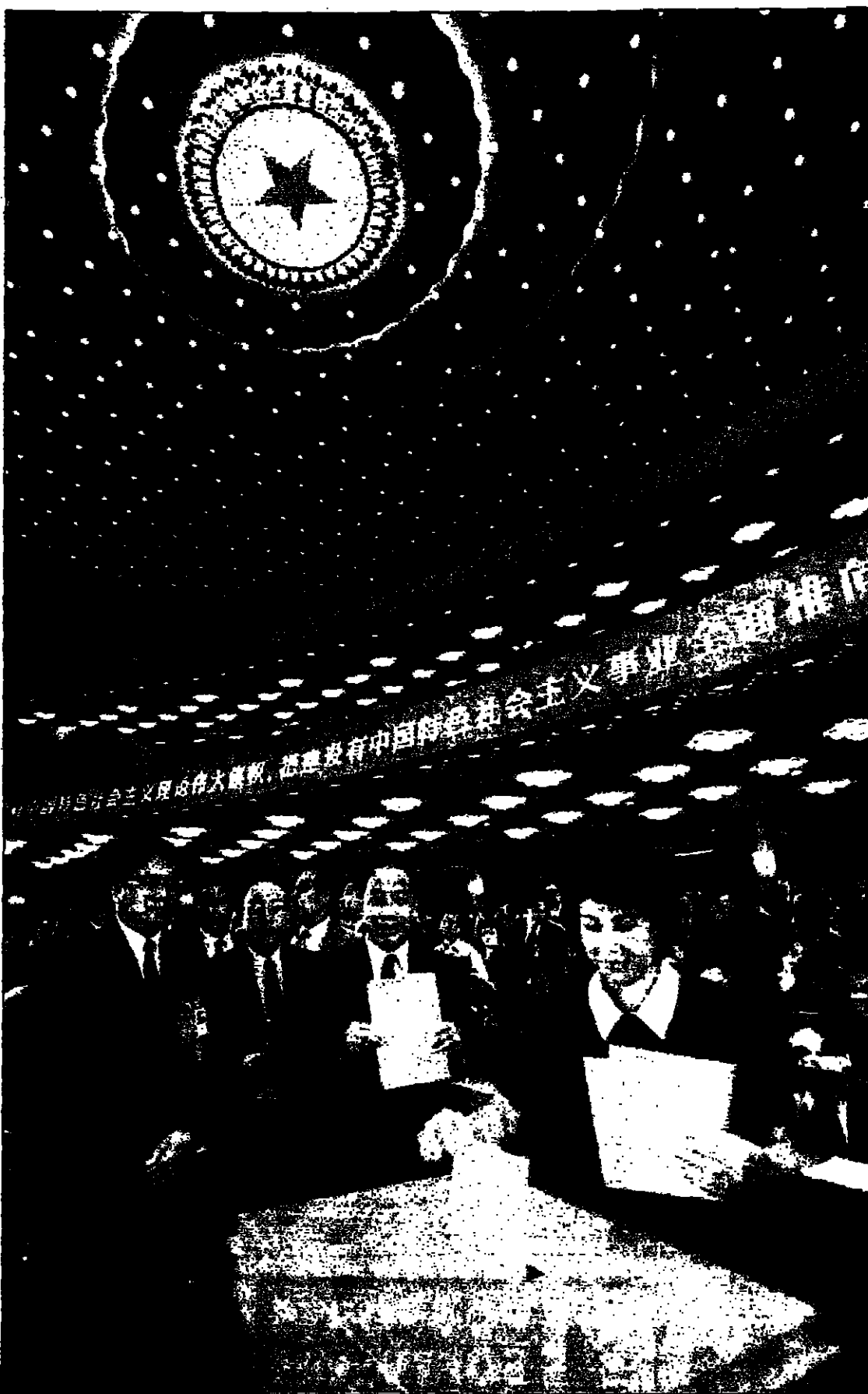
No one expected Mr Qiao to be removed from all his posts, and it marks a very public personal defeat. In the months up to Mr Deng's death, this was the man whom many analysts had described as a likely "king-maker" for the post-Deng era, a role which yesterday evaporated. The propaganda machine cannot even pretend it is a matter of age; Mr Qiao is only one year older than Mr Jiang.

General Liu, 81, had held the top military position in the hierarchy, and although his age meant retirement from the Standing Committee was likely, he was reluctant to depart. His removal from even the Central Committee is a political humiliation. Mr Jiang, who is head of the armed forces, will now seek to promote his own military allies, possibly to the Standing Committee or at least to the Central Military Commission, the army's ruling body.

lost their seats on the Committee. This means that the two men will also be removed from China's supreme political body, the seven-member Standing Committee of the Politburo. That new line-up and the 20-odd member Politburo will be announced this morning, and all eyes will be watching to see whether Mr Jiang has put his protégés in place, many of them from his political power base of Shanghai.

It was 72-year-old Mr Qiao's comprehensive removal from all the key centres of political power which was the most unexpected. "It is a bit of a surprise," said one Western diplomat last night. "But it is a good thing for Mr Jiang, it removes one big problem."

When Mr Jiang in 1992 added the presidency to his positions as party chief and head of the army, many China-watchers still dismissed him as a lightweight who would not stay



Leading lights: Delegates at the Party Congress cast their votes

Photograph: Reuters

2020: West eclipsed by rising star

Within the next 20 years, China could be the world's second largest exporter, after the United States; its consumers are likely to have a purchasing power greater than that of all Europe combined; incomes levels could be on a par with those prevailing in Portugal today, and poverty could be eliminated by 2020.

These amazing predictions are all contained in a major report on the Chinese economy released by the World Bank yesterday. The report puts the bank's seal of approval on a growing number of studies which depict China as a dominant economic force in the new century.

The scale of Chinese achievement, says Vikram Nehru, the report's principal author, is on a par with the emergence of the US as a leading trading nation in the second half of the nineteenth century and Japan's economic explosion from 1952-1995.

For almost two decades, between 1978 and 1995, the Chinese economy grew annually by an average of 9.4 per cent. The report estimates that for the next 20 years the economy will achieve an annual growth rate of 6.5 per cent.

The World Bank says that China's robust economy has been supported by the way the government has handled economic reform and economic growth. In addition, the economic boom has benefited from a supportive Chinese diaspora which has poured investment and know-how into the Chinese economy.

However, this impressive level of growth cannot be guaranteed, the expansion of the Chinese economy has thrown up a number of serious challenges, says the World Bank. Identified as the most serious is the speeding up of reform of the vast state enterprises, half of which are loss making. The Chinese Communist Party congress, now underway, has pledged reform but it may not be sufficient.

Meanwhile, capital-raising is hampered by the inability to channel the enormous bulk of savings into China's infrastructure needs. Capital markets, especially stock markets, are badly regulated and far more like casinos than serious capital-raising centres. The lack of a well-developed legal system to administer the increasingly free market is undermining stability and depriving China of a framework within which to sustain economic growth.

Aside from these problems China, says Mr Nehru, is suffering from mounting environmental pressure, growing inequality both between individuals and between regions, stubbornly high poverty levels, employment insecurity and periods of economic turmoil, such as high bouts of inflation, which stem from uncompleted economic reforms.

Economic reform yes, but political? Look what happened to Gorbachev

Further economic reform has over the past week been given the green light in China; but that doesn't mean reform in other areas is on the agenda. The gamble is that so long as the economy grows, the lid can be kept on demands for political change.

China points to the failed

Gorbachev reform era in the Soviet Union, when a political thaw preceded economic restructuring, as a terrible lesson for Marxists who wish to survive in the global marketplace. But will China be able to handle the surges when economic change so outstrips political opening? There has been some political

change. People no doubt have more personal freedom now. But that does not extend to political liberties, and President Jiang Zemin's keynote speech a week ago offered no prescription for this to alter. There is no evidence that the Communists envisage relinquishing their monopoly.

Mr Jiang did stress that steps must be taken to establish the "rule of law", even if the impetus is to keep foreign investors happy. But in a system rotten with corruption, no one is addressing how this can happen if the people in power are unaccountable and the media is kept on such a tight leash.

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JOHN
LYTTLE

Michael Barrymore's letting the side down, and after such a splendid start: throwing his wedding band into the crowd at the White Swan to the anthemic strains of 'New York, New York'. I quote: 'Start spreading the news, tell everyone I'm gay'

Like skinning the proverbial cat, there's more than one way to Come Out. Actually, there are (spoils for choice) two ways. There's the right way – the role model way – and there's the way we mustn't mention. The wrong way, the way that, oh dear, reflects badly on the here-and-queer everywhere. The right way is, of course, the route Labour MP Angela Eagle recently took: "Coming Out", she hopes, means she will be under less strain and can now just concentrate on getting on with the job she loves. "Now I am at the stage where I need to get things sorted..."

Which shows not merely an obvious dignity, but also how easy it is to pour one's self unconsciously into a pre-approved grand narrative. Well, everyone's got one. Even heterosexuals. There's the anointed substance and meaning of Marriage and Family – concentrate, please – is a statement so all-pervasive as not to appear even faintly ideological, while Coming Out proves that the personal is not only (yawn) political, but helplessly, hopelessly, propaganda, too.

Which makes Coming Out the sugar-coated iceberg of public declarations. Nine-tenths of the announcement lurk below the surface. And what rises above the water line might be said to pander to yet another form of prejudice, albeit awfully liberal and awfully polite.

Thus the new, improved Coming Out focuses on how supportive our families have been and not on how Mom and Dad screamed not to darken their doorstep again. We wax lyrical about our invariably long-term partner – we've known them all of three days – and downplay the 1,001 relationships ruined through shame and secrecy. We prate on about our higher state of consciousness and neglect past erratic behaviour – possibly drunken binges and perhaps even drugs: whatever steadied our raw nerves for that final big step. For casual nobility is the current keynote of Coming Out. Indeed, you're being brave, but, no, you're not being radical. In fact, how does it go? It goes so: your sexuality is one of the least important aspects of who you are.

Mustn't heap guilt: not on those straights who would call themselves sympathetic, or could be persuad-

ed to be. Mustn't whine: that might seem weak. Most important: mustn't ever, ever appear a mad or angry mess. Wear your best make-up.

In short, the act of Coming Out must present itself not as a phase you career through but as unquestioned destination, solution and *de facto* tale of success. Whether they like it or not, and no matter that Coming Out is an ongoing and essentially private psychological process, Chris Smith, Stephen Twigg, Ben Bradshaw must be portrayed as somehow magically complete, as grinning pin-ups for mental health. And never mind that many individuals – whisper it if you dare! – are perfectly content inside the closet. They may be at perfect peace with their own consciences but there are those lofty minds who think these decisions are far too important to be left in such selfish hands. *Outrage!* has The Cause and the tabloids have Circulation and each believes, in its own hard, twinned heart, that bullying Rabbi Lionel Blue to spill his guts was no more than right and proper. We must be prepared to sacrifice – and the sacrifices had best be prepared, also.

Luckily Lionel Blue was prepared: a man who knew (most things) about himself. And then there's Michael Barrymore. Michael Barrymore weaving, stumbling and staggering across the dance floor of my local gay disco three weeks ago. There the TV comic swayed, swinging a can of Stella, a sight too grabby in his clumsy cruising, sniffing from a bottle of poppers, a man barely aware of his surroundings, and, worse, a man barely aware that since the sacred rite of Coming Out he is no longer permitted to be the Judy Garland *du jour*. Every doubt is meant to have gone somewhere over the rainbow. Yet Michael will insist on flying back to the ball and chain – if only to leave her again – except, unfortunately, closets with revolving doors aren't an officially recognised design, particularly when the door sticks. Besides, boo hoo, he's letting the side down, and after such a splendid start: Michael throwing his wedding band into the crowd at the White Swan to the anthemic strains of "New York, New York". I quote: "Start spreading the news, tell everyone I'm gay..."

A splendid start and a major hint that taking (the) Michael might be no minor task. But whether Coming Out or Falling Apart, we're primed to think that the performer's sexuality is the problem, and, frankly, who knows if it is? Perhaps it's his tortured childhood. Perhaps it's poor scripts. Perhaps it's those suits. Though try imparting these dull alternatives to the boys cutting a rug and cutting Barrymore dead on the dance floor three weeks ago; the contemptuous pack instinctively backing off from what it presumes to be an injured animal, when all the poor sod might be doing is Coming Out at his own pace – and to his own rules.

Could be that Barrymore isn't a loser. Maybe he simply isn't linear, ready, steady... huh, stop. Rewind. Let's have a retake. All the traumas that are meant to be resolved in the shadows so that Coming Out can flaunt itself as a *fait accompli*, Barrymore has been obliged to deal with in the limelight. He's merely enacting a celebrity version of what every homosexual goes through, but does this earn the man empathy or provoke scorn? Hazard an educated guess. The creed of Coming Out imagined it had got itself a poster boy and brides at being saddled with *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Trust me – you can't have the one without the other, no matter in which order they appear. That's life. But life, alas for Barrymore, and alas for us, is an ambiguity propaganda can't allow.

My mother, her lovers, my sister, and me



After Jessica Blake's mother walked out on her husband, she had one lover after another. How did Jessica and her little sister cope with the new men in Mum's life? Or more to the point, how did the admirers cope with two little girls and their secret sibling codes of behaviour?

My mother always had one on the go as far as I can remember and last year she had three. I couldn't believe it – 57 and still raring to go. Now at least she is married again, so I guess we won't hear extraordinary tales for a while.

Looking back, I wonder how we all coped. It seems strange that she was only 32 when she dumped my dad and took full responsibility for three young children. I think my elder brother buried himself in books: having been the man of the house from the age of eight, he wasn't about to put up with any competition. My little sister and I, on the other hand, had no means of escape. We were swept up in the rollercoaster ride of my mother's various dramas. Every lover that came through the door was a potential father-figure to us. I must have had at least 10 dads before I hit my teens.

Her lovers seemed to come in different shapes and sizes. I didn't meet all of them, but her descriptions of the others were always so vivid that it didn't really matter. There was the short and rather stumpy doctor, who had a beard and drove a beige Ford Cortina. My mother used to say she felt her bottom was being dragged along the ground

it was so low. Somehow I never pictured her going out with someone with furry dice swinging from the window, but she did. I even remember her conducting this extraordinary ritual for him before a date. She teased her nipples with a tooth-brush to make them more erect. I was fascinated. At the age of nine I didn't really know what she was up to.

Then there was Irish Jack, who I considered a real sweetie. He gave my younger sister and me £5 each as we left Euston station in the sleeper bound for a school holiday in Scotland. My mother had only met him when he came to borrow a corkscrew – at least that was her story. He seemed much younger than her, had Heath-cliff-type hair and wore jeans. I could see why she chose him. He had a twinkle in his eye and a roguish smile which both my sister and I fell for.

I'm not sure what happened to him, but it seemed to stop after Scotland. I remember my mother being particularly gloomy. I think she half-finally found someone she would accept. There is always that extra element when mothers date which makes it much more difficult – how will my lover and loved ones get on? Looking back, she was right about us. Certainly my brother wasn't so elusive, and my sister and I had a bit of a crush. But he just can't have wanted the burden of taking on so much, so young.

My two other favourites were James and Nigel: James, because he bought us our first colour television and bought me one of those giant sets of art-felt pens; Nigel, for taking us to Italian restaurants and giving us all flippers and snorkels when we went on our first holiday abroad when I was 11. Looking back, it does appear that presents featured highly as a mark of acceptance. It can't only have been that, though; and

unlike the time with Jack, appearance had briefly ceased to matter. Perhaps that was when I realised looks weren't all. They certainly haven't been top of my list in my own somewhat chequered dating game. There were a few of her lovers I really couldn't bear, and I know I used to cause trouble. When they picked her up I would yell from the top of the stairs, desperate to drag her away from their clutches. Now I realise it was plain jealousy, but at the time I felt pure venom.

Neddy the Greek was far too amorous, and looked to me like he was serious. My younger sister adored him too, which made it even harder. Gone was my ally with whom to bitch and dissuade. Perhaps he really would become our new father. But he didn't. Tristan was another. All wizened like a dessicated bird, and what looked like no penis to match. He wore bizarre knickerbockers on occasion, and we knew full well he dyed his hair. He was always over-affectionate and used to creep up to me and my sister and plant a wet, squidgy kiss on our cheeks. Now I realise he must have had a penchant for young girls. He used to positively beam when we had friends for tea and rush around offering refreshments. To this day, he still makes my skin crawl as I remember how he ogled over

holiday snaps of my sister. Thank God he was despatched quickly.

The muffin man was different, though. At least we thought he was. Before we had even met him we fantasised about him being our next father. He was shrouded in mystery. Large boxes of Belgian chocolates began to appear in the fridge, and strange foods from Marks & Spencer. My sister and I were only used to the staples from Sainsbury's, so we thought he must be exotic. He would send postcards signed "the muffin man" and bouquets signed "S from M". We quizzed my mother relentlessly, but she would never give in.

Finally, after much wingeing and whining, we met him. Our illusions were shattered for ever. It wasn't that he wasn't kind or charming, asking us about school and our friends. It was more his appearance that let us down. Over the weeks and months we had built him up to be some sort of cross between Stinky and Roger Moore, two of our favourites of the moment. As he opened the door to his house we couldn't believe our eyes. Both my sister and I had pitched our view at least seven feet up, but had to adjust immediately to about five foot four. He was wincey, grey-haired and strangely tanned. We ate cakes in his garden while our mother looked anxious. She

knew our views before even asking. Another one bites the dust! At least he didn't have children. These lovers were the worse. Top of the bill was Archie. All hair and teeth, as far as I can remember, and a weird crusty skin condition that made us gag. He had two daughters who lived with their mother in Dorking. They looked awful and spoke as if they had been put through a mangle.

My sister and I looked at each other. The secret sibling code had kicked in. How could she, we both thought – and Dorking, I ask you. We crossed every appendage and begged the Lord that we would never see them again. Thankfully, He answered our prayers and Archie hit the high jump.

My mother never let any of these men stay the night. I sometimes wondered where she did it. She just used to go out a lot. Once she came back early. It can't have been a success. I was thrilled. I actually saw her before I went to bed and wasn't packed off by a babysitter who couldn't wait to have some peace. On reflection, I don't think she can have been that happy with the staying-out arrangement. The day after the night before, she would always seem a little crabby and mumble expletives under her breath about the trouble with men, the cat and having children.

I always wondered what possessed my mother and where she found this odd assortment. She did have a drama school background, looked groovy and liked to flirt. But most of all she liked to be attached.

I think her own father's absence must have played a part. Mine certainly has: history does seem to be repeating itself as I move from one relationship to another in search of a permanent father-figure. The irony of all this is that now that I am the same age as she was then, I wouldn't dream of putting my love life on hold, even knowing the effects as well as I do. "They fuck you up, your mum and dad," according to Philip Larkin. I sometimes think we were far worse.

Come off it Nicola, who are you trying to kid?

Until her sacking hit the headlines earlier this year, nobody knew much about Nicola Horlick – then suddenly everybody wanted to know more. What was she really like – and what did it all mean? Now that extracts of her book have been published, it's perfectly clear – to everyone except Nicola herself, that is. By Ann Treneman.

Here was a City high-flier who wasn't afraid to fight back when Morgan Grenfell fired her earlier this year. Here was a mother of five who still managed to get the lipstick on straight. Nicola Horlick was gutsy, she was savvy, she was Superwoman.

So she should have been our hero. But somehow she wasn't. "You're all just jealous," a (male) colleague said. Perhaps. After all, Nicola made a fortune while the rest of us were probably not earning even as much as the man at the next desk. Her children were not only well-behaved, but they had matching

oufits. She had the perfect nanny, a presentable husband, a desirable address.

But the uneasiness would not go away, and each time her name came up the queasiness returned. There was something strange about this woman who enjoyed giving us pearls of wisdom as much as she liked wearing the things around her neck. Her entire life seemed to be out of some Eighties time warp. She loved to juggle her life. She loved making lists. Life was frantic but full. Something was wrong, though it wasn't easy to say what.

Now we know, thanks to an interview in *The Daily Telegraph* and its serialisation of her new book (yes, Nicola writes, too) called *Can You Have It All?* I don't know why she bothered to make it a question, since she clearly knows the answer. "I am a planner. I have an electronic diary and my *Economist* diary because I have to think months ahead," she said. This attitude extends to the conception of her children, all of whom were born at the end of the year so that her maternity leave could include the Christmas holidays. "I am just very lucky. I have a perfect 28-day cycle. I know precisely when I am ovulating."



It is no surprise to discover that Nicola was hyperactive as a child and still only sleeps six hours a night. She feels unwell if she has a lie-in. She is an over-achiever in almost every way. She likes her kitchen shiny, her children well-scrubbed, her husband in the background. "I'm very traditional. I think a woman is responsible for thinking about everything – the children, the loo paper," she says. She may be a demon, but she can also be demure about it.

None of this is what is wrong with Nicola, however. So what if she is a control freak? Most chronic over-achievers are. The thing that is wrong here is that she is in absolute denial about what it means to be a working mother. She believes – and is not shy of saying so – that she

would give up work if she felt that her children were suffering in any way. This from a woman who gave a successful presentation for a \$750m account while her leukaemia-stricken daughter, Georgie, lay in hospital on the critical list. Her boss was away, she says, and she simply had to do it.

Evidently Nicola talks a great deal about the importance of the maternal instinct and points out that her husband and her children back her 100 per cent. "If I felt my children were suffering in any way, of course I would give up," she says. "Not least because if Georgie died I might well feel guilty for not having seen enough of her. I told Georgie, 'Don't worry, Mummy will give up work, and she said, 'Don't, you'll be bored.' But I've never felt guilty. I really haven't."

I haven't heard this kind of thing for years. It used to be quite the thing to offer up such justifications for working outside the home. I know because I have interviewed scores of working mothers on the subject. Everyone's husband and children were 100 per cent behind them. There was a lot of talk about giving quality, not quantity time, to their children. "I'm

really working for the sake of my family," said women who, seemed to me to be working for the sake of their sanity. "My children will always come first and they know that."

Gradually we started admitting that things might be a little more complicated. We gave up the idea that you can cram a whole day of parenting into an hour in the morning and an hour at night and not suffer any consequences. We admitted that some of us were working for ourselves, not our families. In our hearts we now know that we cannot have it all. As I write this, my children are at home missing me. They want me to be there and I am not there for them. That is the reality of being a working mother and that is the reality that Nicola Horlick never acknowledges.

This lack of awareness means we have little to learn from her. Her views may be interesting in a freakish sort of way, but there is nothing of the role model in them. The challenge of the Nineties is to find new ways to balance work and home for both men and women. That's the future and Superwoman doesn't live there any more.

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Red Skelton

Richard Bennett (Red) Skelton, actor and comedian, born Vincennes, Indiana 18 July 1910; married 1931 Edna Stillwell (marriage dissolved 1943); 1945 Georgia Maureen Davis (deceased; one daughter; and one son deceased; marriage dissolved 1972); 1973 Lillian Toland; died Rancho Mirage, California 17 September 1997.

A red-haired, rubber-faced comedian who was one of MGM's top stars in the Forties, Red Skelton excelled in zany, bubble-headed characterisations and such sketches as his famous "Guzzler's Gin" routine, in which, while doing a commercial for the potent product, he became hilariously drunk. Often compared to Buster Keaton - he remade several Keaton films, and Keaton was a gagman for him at MGM - he is less warmly remembered today, and his champions profess that his greatest work was on American radio and television.

Born Richard Bennett Skelton in 1910 in Vincennes, Indiana, he was singing for money in the street at the age of seven. His father, a circus clown, died when he was two months old, and his mother worked as a charlady (Red was the youngest of her four sons). The poverty-stricken family lived in an attic, and Skelton left school at the age of 10 to join a medicine show, spending the rest of his youth entertaining wherever he could find an audience - showboats, minstrel shows, circuses, burlesque theatres. He graduated from burlesque to the more respectable music-halls when he formed a double act with a former usher, Edna Stillwell (they married in 1931).

It was a long apprenticeship, but eventually, on the strength of a doughnut-dunking routine he developed, he was given a spot in the Paramount Theatre, New York, in 1937 which led to his radio debut on the Rudy Vallee show. Listeners loved his act, and a year later he had become popular enough to be given the job of MC for the launch of President Roosevelt's infantile paralysis campaign in Washington.

He made his film debut in 1938 (as Richard Skelton) in the

RKO film *Having Wonderful Time*, performing his doughnut-dunking routine as part of his role as a summer-camp entertainer, and followed this with appearances in some Vitaphone shorts. MGM signed him to a contract in 1941, and after trying him out in supporting roles, notably as a well-meaning but slow-witted orderly in two Dr Kildare films, gave him the leading role of the Fox, a radio detective who finds himself involved in a real-life adventure, in *Whistling in the Dark* (1941). The slapstick comedy-thriller was a hit, and MGM starred Skelton in two sequels, *Whistling in Dixie* (1942) and *Whistling in Brooklyn* (1943) - all three had Ann Rutherford as his leading lady.

The film version of Cole Porter's Broadway hit *Panama Hattie* (1943) demonstrated the studio's regard for their new comedy star - in the second part of the film its musical aspects are forgotten for the extended haunted-house antics of Skelton and his cohorts Rags Ragland and Ben Blue. Skelton was then given the plum role of a cloakroom attendant who dreams he is King Louis to Lucille Ball's DuBarry in a lavish Technicolor musical, *DuBarry was a Lady* (1943), another much-bowdlerised Cole Porter show. Gene Kelly was the romantic lead, but the film was dominated by Skelton (in a role created by Bert Lahr on Broadway) and Ball.

Co-starred with Eleanor Powell in *I Dood It* (1943), a loose remake of Keaton's *Spite Marriage*, Skelton had a particularly funny scene in which he tries to deal with a drugged, completely comatose and seemingly rubber-limbed Powell. This was one of many ideas which had earlier been used in films of Buster Keaton and which the great silent star, then working as a gagman at MGM, reworked for Skelton. Though the two men's styles were totally dissimilar, Keaton later stated that he loved working with Skelton, and the two became good friends.

In the all-star *Thousands Cheer* (1943), Skelton did a guest spot competing with the child star Margaret O'Brien to eat the most ice-cream. *Bathing Beauty* (1944) was the first film to star the swimming champion Esther Williams, who later

generously acknowledged Skelton's popularity: "I was lucky to have Red in my first big movie, because he was such a box-office draw." An enormous success, the film featured a classic Skelton routine (devised by Keaton) in which, having enrolled in a girls' school to be near his wife, he is forced to take ballet lessons (complete with tutu) and makes increasingly desperate efforts to free himself of a persistently adhesive chocolate wrapper while dancing.

Skelton was now at the peak of his film career, and his show *Red Skelton's Scrapbook of Satire* had been judged the third most popular programme on radio (the first two being *The Bob Hope Show* and *Fibber McGee and Molly*). In *Ziegfeld Follies* (1946), Skelton put on film his "Guzzler's Gin" routine (retitled "When Television Comes"). Shot in just one day and directed by George Sidney, the sketch had originally been written by Edna for Skelton's first radio show, and had also been used for Skelton's MGM screen test (shot by Sidney). It remains a potent piece of perfectly honed clowning.

Then Skelton tried for paths as the braggart hero of *The Show-Off* (1946), based on George Kelly's play, but audiences were not happy with his low-key characterisation, and his portrayal of a simple-minded movie fan in a screen version of the George S. Kaufman/Marc Connelly play *Merton of the Movies* (1947) also met with a tepid response, so it was back to slapstick with *The Fuller Brush Man* (1948) as a door-to-door salesman involved in murder.

This was made while he was on loan to Columbia as MGM tried to find suitable scripts. Keaton allegedly asked Louis B. Mayer to let him work with Skelton as an independent unit within the company, using his own stories, gags, production and directing, even offering not to take a salary until the films had proved their box-office worth, but Mayer refused to give Keaton such authority.

Skelton's next film, *A Southern Yankee* (1948), was, though, an unofficial remake of Keaton's classic *The General*, while one of its highlights is the recreation of a gag from

Keaton's *Jail Bait* in which Skelton, passing between lines of both Confederate and Union armies, wears a uniform with one side blue and the other grey - both sides stop shooting when they see their own uniform.

In *Neptune's Daughter* (1949) Skelton was one of the quartet of stars (with Esther Williams, Betty Garrett and Ricardo Montalban) who introduced Frank Loesser's Oscar-winning song "Baby, It's Cold Outside". Skelton's role as an inventor in *The Yellow Cab Man* (1950) allowed Keaton to rework gags from his shorts *One Week* and *The Electric House* and resulted in one of Skelton's funniest comedies, while *Three Little Words* (1950), in which Fred Astaire and Skelton played two songwriters, Bert Kalmar and Harry Ruby, gave him a comparatively straight role as baseball-loving Ruby.

Watch the *Birdie* (1950) was a remake of Keaton's own first film for MGM, *The Cameraman*, but the studio were now investing less money in Skelton vehicles. *Excuse My Dust* (1951), a pleasant period piece with songs by Arthur Schwartz and Johnny Mercer, cast Skelton as a pioneer of the automobile and was Keaton's last gagman assignment at MGM, after which Skelton was part of a starry cast in the director Mervyn LeRoy's underrated remake of *Roberta* entitled *Lovely to Look At* (1951). Skelton's routine of a befuddled tenor with diction problems ("My dentist said I had wonderful teeth, great choppers - but my gums have to come out") is among the film's highlights.

Skelton's last MGM film was *The Clown* (1953), a remake of the sentimental warhorse *The Champ*, and another misguided attempt at pathos. The same year Skelton's own show started on CBS television and was an enormous success. It ran for nearly 20 years, during which time he created characters who became familiar to American audiences, such as the country bumpkin Clem Kaddiddehopper, the boxer Cauliflower McPug, Sheriff Deadeye, scourge of the West, Freddie the Freelander (a tramp who never spoke) and the Mean Widdle Kid, who used the catchphrase "I dood it". Skelton described them as



Skelton: 'I just want to be known as a clown'

Photograph: Kobal Collection

"characters who remind the audience of someone they know."

Though he and Edna were divorced in 1943 (she later married the director Frank Borzage), she remained his business manager. In 1945 he married the model Georgia Maureen Davis. They had two children but the younger Richard died of leukaemia just before his 10th birthday in 1958 and the grief-stricken Skelton embarked on a strenuous work schedule as therapy.

In 1972 Red and Georgia divorced and the following year he married Lillian Toland, daughter of the cinematographer Gregg Toland.

Skelton made his final screen appearance in 1965 with a cameo in *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*, as a Neanderthal man trying to be a flying bird - it was one of the film's comedy highlights. Though wealthy, he continued to make occasional night-club and television appearances,

and had a lucrative sideline as a painter of clowns. "I don't want to be called 'the greatest'," Skelton once said. "I just want to be known as a clown because to me that's the height of my profession. It means you can do everything - sing, dance and, above all, make people laugh."

In 1990, aged 80, he gave a farewell performance at Carnegie Hall, his billing describing him simply as "One of America's Clowns".

— Tom Vulliamy

Judith Merril

Josephine Juliet Grossman (Judith Merril), science fiction writer: born New York 21 January 1923; married 1940 Daniel Zisman (one daughter; marriage dissolved 1947); 1949 Frederick Pohl (one daughter; marriage dissolved 1953); 1960 Daniel Sugas (marriage dissolved 1975); died Toronto 12 September 1997.

Judith Merril was one of those rare writers whose influence far outstripped her own written work.

Born Josephine Juliet Grossman, she took the name Merril after her first divorce, before her four-year marriage to the veteran science fiction writer Frederick Pohl in 1949. Her first story, "That Only a Mother", published in *Amazing Science Fiction* in 1948 and still anthologised today, set the tone for her fiction, exploring the powerful love of a mother for her radiation-deformed baby.

Her first and best novel was published a year later, *Shadow on the Hearth* was unusual for its time in telling its story from the viewpoint of an innocent bystander - a housewife who has to draw on her own psychological resources to protect her children and herself in the face of a nuclear attack on New York, and the unwelcome advances of a male neighbour.

A later novel, *The Tomorrow People* (1960), a psychological mystery, is generally thought less emotionally powerful than her earlier work. She also co-wrote two novels with Cyril Kornbluth in 1952, under the name Cyril Judd. The three space-travel novellas in *Daughters of Earth* (1968), written in the mid-1950s, deal in different ways with the relationship between mothers and daughters. Merril was one of the few female science fiction writers in the 1950s and, in dealing with women's issues in a woman's voice, she was the forerunner of later feminist writers.

Merril's main significance to science fiction lies in her work as a critic for the *Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, and most of all as an anthologist; she edited around 20 anthologies, including 12 volumes of a highly regarded annual "Best of" series in the 1950s and 1960s. She was the most active American proponent of the "New Wave" of British science fiction of the 1960s, as exemplified in Michael Moorcock's groundbreaking *New Worlds* magazine; through this encouragement, and her own anthologies, she was responsible for launching the careers of many young experimental writers. She also campaigned for science fiction to be renamed, more accurately, speculative fiction, so emphasising the stories of social (rather than scientific) extrapolation which she preferred.

Merril moved from her native United States to Canada in 1968. Her donation of her own huge SF library formed the basis of what is now the Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy at Toronto Public Library, one of the largest such research collections in the world.

— David V. Barrett

Jan Syse, politician, died Oslo 16 September, aged 66. Prime minister of Norway 1989-90, and a "fanatical moderate".

Cécile Dolmetsch

Cécile Dolmetsch, musician: born Dorking, Surrey 22 March 1904; married 1925 Leslie Ward (died 1989; one son, two daughters); died Haslemere, Surrey 8 August 1997.

Cécile Dolmetsch was the eldest and last surviving of Arnold Dolmetsch's four children by his third wife, Mabel. Her younger brother, Carl, died less than a month before her. Cécile and her siblings were taught in infancy to play the various period instruments in the Dolmetsch collection and joined in the family consort when quite small children. None of them could recall a life without music.

Cécile was the only member of the family who could sing, and in her younger days her small but sweet voice was heard at many Haslemere Festivals. However, her main contribution

to the field of early music was through her researching and re-creation of the rare *pardessus de viole* and its literature.

She was born in 1904 in Dorking, Surrey, just before the family undertook an American tour and was left with a friend for the duration. Whilst in the United States Arnold accepted an offer from the piano-makers Chickering of Boston to open a department for making early musical instruments. When he returned to England to settle the family's affairs in July 1904, he took his baby daughter back with him, sailing on the *Minnehaha*. They were accompanied by a nurse for Cécile and the two and a half years cost £40.

When the trade recession of 1910 began to cripple manufacture in the US, Dolmetsch decided to leave. The following year he settled with his family at Fontenay-sous-Bois in France, having found a position

with Gaveau in Paris to make harpsichords.

Cécile always regarded those three childhood years in France as being a happy time. But Dolmetsch and Gaveau did not always see eye to eye and in 1914 the family was again on the move. This time they returned to London on the eve of the Great War, which must have been a daunting experience for the children who had already lived on two continents.

In 1917, when the air-raids became unbearable, the Dolmetschs moved from their house in Tanza Road, Hampstead, to settle in Haslemere in Surrey and the family has remained in the same house ever since. It was from here that Arnold Dolmetsch launched the first Haslemere Festival in 1925.

That same year Cécile married Leslie C. Ward, one of the craftsmen from her father's workshop; he was also a musi-

cian who played the *violine* in the Festival and in addition, an expert recording engineer, a skill which came in very useful when he organised a series of LPs recording the performances of his wife and her fellow musicians.

Cécile Dolmetsch will be remembered principally for her researches into the *pardessus de viole*, a descendant instrument with a very high range developed in 18th-century France, where it was very popular with amateur musicians. She worked tirelessly to unearth manuscripts and publications in French libraries and gradually managed to build up a repertoire for this little-known member of the viol family. She found solo music by Thomas Mace, Jean Barrière, Caix d'Hervelois and others, and for many years she was the only person to perform in public on this instrument.

Together with other artists she gave annual concerts in

London, at first at the Chenil Galleries and later at the Great Drawing Room of the Arts Council in St James's Square where the 18th-century acoustics were perfect for such performances. She also played every year at the Haslemere Festival, her last appearance being at the 66th in 1990 when she used her beautiful Guersan instrument dated 1761.

When her sister Nathalie died in 1989, she succeeded her as president of the Viola da Gamba Society, which they had jointly founded in 1948.

Cécile Dolmetsch was teaching right up to her death. She was an inveterate traveller and at the age of 92 took herself on a package tour of the Italian lakes: only a year or so earlier she had been doing some researches in north Africa. She was optimistic by nature and possessed considerable charm of personality.

— Margaret Campbell



Tireless Dolmetsch at the harpsichord

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

WHALES: The Rev J.S. White, theologian and teacher, in Edinburgh on 17 September, aged 102, survived by his widow Mary. Funeral at Warriston Crematorium, 21 October. (Contributor: J. White, 101, Warriston Road, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 24 September at 10.15am.)

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephone 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 3012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, Funerals, Marriages) should be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Miss Kate Adie, television journalist, 52; Mr John Burnett MP, 52; Mrs Judith Church MR, 44; Sir Timothy Colman, Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, 68; Captain Ronald Cunningham-Jardine, Lord-Lieutenant, Dumfries and Galloway, 66; Mr Justin Dukes, chairman, European Communications Industries Consortium, 56; Mr Michael Elphick, actor, 51; Captain Jim Fox, pentathlon winner, 97; Miss Sidonie Goossens, harpist, 97; The Right Rev Hugh Gough, former Archbishop of Sydney, 92; Mr Richard Gray, Director, Manchester City Art Galleries, 46; Mr David Harris, chairman and chief executive, Nestlé UK, 53; Miss Rosemary Harris, actress, 67; Mr Simon Hemans, High Commissioner to Kenya, 57; Mr Jeremy Irons, actor, 49; Mr Brian Jenkins MP, 55; Mr David McCullum, actor, 64; Sir Robert McClelland, former MP, 68; Mr Ian McGowan, Librarian, National Library of Scotland, 52; The Very Rev Dr J. Frazier McLuskey, former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, 83; Mr Charles Martin, Headmaster, Bristol Grammar School, 58; Mr Austin Mitchell MP, 63; Sir Stephen

Mitchell, High Court judge, 56; Mrs Penelope Morrison, novelist, 79; Mr Peter Murray, broadcaster, 69; Sir Robert Nelson, High Court judge, 55; Mr Derek Nimmo, actor, 68; Dr Harold Plenderleith, antiquarian and scientist, 99; Miss Zandra Rhodes, fashion designer, 57; Dr George Richardson, former Warden, Keele College, Oxford, 73; The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, Chancellor, Sussex University and former Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, 68; Professor Sir Geoffrey Slaney, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 75; Twiggy (Lesley Hornby), model, actor and singer, 48; Professor Christopher White, Director, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 67; Sir Leonard Williams, former Director-General, Energy, European Communities, 78; Mr Paul Willis, composer, 58; Dr Arthur Willis, composer and organist, 71; Judge Harold Wilson, circuit judge, 66.

Anniversaries

Births: Antonine Pius, Roman emperor, 86; Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln, writer, 1587; Henri Jacques de Croes, violinist, conduc-

tor and composer, 1705; The Rev William Kirby, zoologist, 1759; Henry Peter Brougham, first Baron Brougham and Vaux, Lord Chancellor, 1778; Valentin Bender, clarinetist and composer, 1801; William Dyce, painter, 1806; George Cadbury, chocolate manufacturer and social reformer, 1839; William Hesketh Lever, first Viscount Leverhulme, soap manufacturer and philanthropist, 1851; Arthur Rackham, illustrator, 1867; Giuseppe Saragat, president of Italy, 1898; Rinaldo Cortez (Jacob Krantz), actor and director, 1899; William Gordon (Billy) Reid, popular composer, 1902; Gustaf Allan Pettersson, composer, 1911; Sir William Gerald Golding, novelist and Nobel prizewinner, 1911; Desha Meyer Anselmi Rothschild, banker, 1812; Giovanni Battista Donati, astronomer, 1827; James Abram Garfield, 20th US President, after being shot 1881; Thomas John Barnardo, physician and philanthropist, 1825; Pauline Frederick (Beatrice Pauline Libbey), stage and film actress, 1938; Rainu (Jules Murnau), actor, 1946; Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (Brent of Bin Bin), novelist, 1954; Sir David Alexander Cecil Low, cartoonist,

1963; Chester Floyd Carlson, inventor of xerographic copying system, 1968; Roy Kneiser, actor and comedian, 1968. On this day: led by Edward, the Black Prince, the English defeated the French at the Battle of Poitiers, 1356; Auckland, New Zealand, was founded, 1840; Melville Renbush Bissell, inventor, patented the first carpet-sweeper, 1876; the Germans took Kiev, 1941; William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw", was sentenced to be hanged, after a trial at the Old Bailey, 1945; St Christopher and Nevis became independent, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Emily de Rodat, St Gertrude or Abbo, St Januarius of Benevento, St Mary of Crevecoeur, St Pelagus and his Companions, St Sequanus or Seine, St Susanna of Eleutheropolis and St Theodore of Canterbury.

Lectures

National Gallery: Humphrey Wine, "18th-Century France: Chardin's children", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Beth McKillop, "Porcelain in China and Korea", 2.30pm.

Dinners

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders. The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Sir Roger Cook, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their Ladies and the City Marshal, were present at a Ladies Dinner given by the Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders at Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2, yesterday. The Master, Mr Richard Vanderpomp, presided. The Lord Mayor, Sir Barry Sheen and the Senior Warden, Mr Simon Orlik, also spoke.

Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of Scotland:

ORDINATION AND INDUCTION. The Rev William McCulloch, to St Andrew's, Kilmarnock, with Outhwaite Tausad. The Rev Thomas Brown, to Lochside, Dumfries. The Rev Elizabeth M.D. Robertson, to Ladywell, Banachdunn. The Rev Gordon Hogg, to Bonnyville with Orquhart and Cornhill.

ORDINATION. The Rev Jane Coggie, as Auxiliary Minister to St Mark's, Stirling.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York attends the Maharaja Duleep Singh Centenary Trust Dinner at Westworth Golf Club, Surrey. The Princess Royal visits Harwood House to see an exhibition marking the centenary of the birth of Princess Mary, the Princess Royal, in Moor House, Harwood Estate, Leeds, West Yorkshire; and visits Turnham Hall in its 50th anniversary year, Harefield, West Yorkshire. The Duke of Kent attends a concert by the Prussia Cove Group, Prussia Cove, Penzance, Cornwall.

Changing of the Guard. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 6.52pm. United Synagogue: 0181-343 8909. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-262 2262. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2574. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

Auntie seems to have forgotten her public duties



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

No one has ever explained to the British people, who pay for the BBC, why they need a 24-hour news service which provides all BBC news programmes. This is a failure of management as well as of vision. Perhaps there is a case for a homogeneous news operation, absorbing all the BBC's news journalists in a single night-and-day sub-empire, all on a single rota and under centralised control. Perhaps. But if there is a case for it, it has not been made. Neither to the BBC's staff, who admittedly have a vested interest in keeping things as they are, nor, more importantly, to the public. John Birt, the BBC director-general, once famously wrote of the mission to explain. It has turned out to be a more difficult crusade than he could ever have imagined. His great drive to transform BBC journalism, launched 10 years ago, was like the building of the Tower of Babel. It was an ambitious and inspiring vision, of a BBC that confidently seized its chance, as a public service

broadcaster, to engage in a new kind of reporting. It would treat issues in greater depth, as part of a story about people's lives that made sense, rather than as an episodic series of sensations and conflicts. Specialists were recruited, units set up, new programmes launched. But the other part of the ambitious vision was that of a BBC run efficiently, a modern, tightly-managed organisation able to compete in the expanding media marketplace so that, as the licence fee came, under pressure, the ideal (and finances) of public service broadcasting could be defended.

And that is the part of the vision which went horribly wrong, hampering construction of the new edifice in a babble of management jargon. Much good was achieved. Huge tracts of programme-making have been contracted out, and greater efficiency has been achieved at the bottom of what is left. But the corridors of Television Centre are still crowded with managers and bureaucrats. Meanwhile the

commitment to a different kind of journalism is all but forgotten.

For all the Birtian revolution, the BBC remains a top-heavy organisation. It came as no surprise yesterday when Tony Hall, head of BBC News, retreated on the latest proposals by in effect promising another layer of managers. The point of the plan that has caused Naughtie, Humphrys, Ford and all to rise in revolt was to abolish the post of editor for each news programme. The primary justification was cost-cutting. It all sounds like the kind of plan that would be dreamt up by management consultants with no understanding of journalism. By yesterday morning Mr Hall had suggested "associate" editors for each programme, with "executive" editors above them as part of the central operation. This is a classic pattern in dysfunctional organisations, in which misdirected attempts to make them more efficient meet opposition and are then diverted into creating even less efficiency.

However, Mr Hall has retreated, and he should be allowed the credit for that. The BBC should be open to public debate about how it is run, and he deserves two cheers for postponing the plans for six weeks. Its celebrity presenters may not always be the best judge of the BBC's responsibility to the licence-payer, but on this occasion they are absolutely right that journalistic excellence is more likely to be fostered by loyalty to a small unit, such as a programme with its own identity, rather than some mega-bureaucracy such as the BBC.

But we can only guess the motives of the BBC's bosses, because it does not seem to have occurred to them that public debate was necessary or desirable. It would have been better if the BBC had attempted to answer the questions that are now being asked before announcing such dramatic changes. And it is no use the rest of us appealing now, after the horse has bolted, to the Board of Governors, the Great and

Good part-timers who are supposed to act as the guardians of the public interest. As a public broadcaster, the BBC's own management should be conscious of their mission to explain themselves, all the time, to the licence-payers.

Nor is this the first time the corporation has been taken unawares by the public reaction to changes that it has announced without consultation. In the case of the proposed abolition of *Yesterday in Parliament* on Radio 4, it would not simply have been a matter of common sense to consult MPs beforehand, but a matter of public duty. The BBC is not like BSkyB, and it must take its civic obligations seriously.

The BBC has a responsibility to explain what it is up to, both to the public directly and through them to their representatives in the House of Commons. This is a responsibility that should not be shuffled off to the Board of Governors. It should be borne by the director-general himself.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
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Fax 0171 293 2006; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Future of the BBC

Sir: The controversy over John Birt's proposal to abolish the posts of all editors and deputy editors of BBC news programmes ("Open war at the BBC as stars revolt", 18 September), both on radio and television is far more important than just an internal argument about management.

A centralised editorial team is likely to produce a lowest common denominator of news and comment, with none of the informal and trenchant questioning encountered on *Today* and *Newsnight*. Terminating the character and autonomy of BBC programmes of this calibre will both impoverish the quality of public life in Britain and undermine the BBC's unique and longstanding reputation for objectivity and excellence.

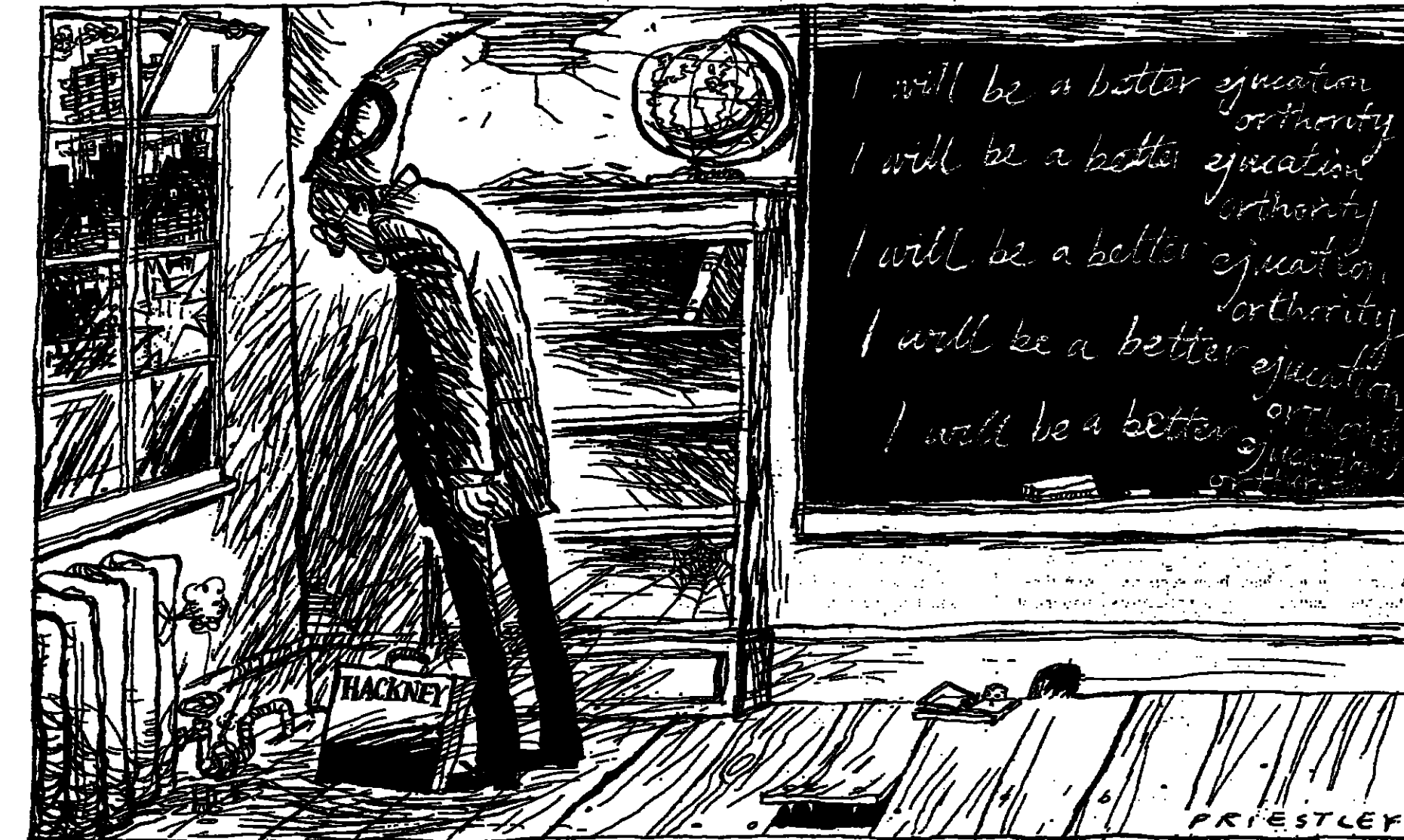
The explanations so far offered by the BBC's management have been confusing. On the one hand, listeners have been assured that there has been full consultation on the changes, over a year or more. On the other, news programme editorial staff have declared, both publicly and privately, that there has been little or no consultation. The insensitive comment of a BBC spokesman, to the effect that Mr Birt's decision could not be changed, and that only details could be discussed, does not elicit confidence.

It is crucial that a matter of such importance to the future of the BBC be discussed fully, both within and outside the BBC, before any decision is confirmed.

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS
House of Lords
London SW1

Sir: The BBC spends public money and we must spend it wisely. It is simply wrong to suggest that our structural changes in News will lead to programmes being created by a "sausage machine" - one very like another.

We will never lose sight of the fact that audiences want distinctive and engaging programmes from the BBC. But we need to do that cost-effectively. We have to avoid duplicating ideas, resources and the treatment of stories across the day. That means organising ourselves in a modern, efficient way



to meet the competitive challenges of the age.

Wherever we save money, we intend to invest it in news-gathering around the world and in the UK, producing more special programmes on radio and television and new services for our audiences.

TONY HALL
Chief Executive
BBC News
London W1

Doctors' pay

Sir: Your leading article ("Top jobs with tough responsibilities merit top salaries", 18 September) quotes me selectively and pejoratively before going into attack.

The Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body was established with a clear remit to make recommendations on doctors' pay levels by reference to comparator professions.

The Independent may re-

gard comparability as an old-fashioned, Seventies concept. The British Medical Association does not. It has led to fair and justifiable increases for the Prime Minister and his colleagues.

One can only assume that the Treasury did not seek to constrain the Senior Salaries Review Body with the same vigour that it is now attempting to impose on the Review Bodies governing doctors, nurses and teachers.

I object to the "double-whammy" whereby governments seek to constrain the independent review bodies before they start their deliberations as well as reserving the right to stage or vary the awards after the review body has reported.

Of course I recognise that any increase in the salary bill for cabinet ministers, no matter how great, would have an imperceptible effect upon the

public purse. Surely this does not mean that medical staff should never be remunerated fairly for the increasingly heavy and complex responsibilities they bear.

I also object very strongly to the implication that doctors or the BMA bore any responsibility for the winters of discontent of the Seventies. Doctors have remained unwavering in their commitment to patients. The huge increases in the number of patients treated by the NHS have been achieved by sharply increasing the intensity, complexity and volume of work undertaken by doctors and other health service staff. It has been achieved, as Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, himself acknowledges, by dedicated staff working "flat out".

Dr A W MACARA
Chairman of Council
British Medical Association
London WC1

Essex waste

Sir: Polly Tynbee made an error in her manifesto for recycling ("The battle of incinerators vs recyclers", 16 September). There is no proposal to build four incinerators in Essex. We know that time is running out for Essex waste. So all 15 Essex councils are working together on a future strategy including waste minimisation and recycling, and all the other waste options that are necessary because our landfill is running out.

Essex residents have been involved in commenting on the strategy, through area liaison groups for north, west and south Essex, and through a comprehensive booklet which is still available to your readers.

LEWIS HERBERT
Principal Engineer
Waste Strategy
Essex County Council
Chelmsford, Essex

Flu vaccinations

Sir: Your report (18 September) urging patients with colds and flu not to dog up GPs' surgeries makes a fair point.

However, it omitted to mention that flu can be a serious illness for many older people. The Department of Health advises that people with chronic lung, heart or kidney disease, or with diabetes or a damaged immune system, should seek an annual flu vaccination. Help the Aged promotes this message, because of the incidence of these conditions in our older population.

Whilst we support moves to cut out frivolous use of GPs' time, it is important to ensure that flu is taken seriously by those for whom it is a real risk. The vaccinations are 70 per cent effective, they minimise complications, and they save lives.

MERVYN KOHLER
Head of Public Affairs
Help the Aged, London EC1

Design 'riot'

Sir: Dear oh dear. What have they done to *The Independent*? Tony Blair's vision for the future (groan) all over the front page instead of the news. Articles that merge seamlessly together in the rest of the paper. The new *Independent* bears all the hallmarks of design run riot.

N P ROLLIN
Oxford

Sir: I like the look but please, please can I have the "significant shorts" column back. The new layout cannot compete with a family breakfast and we have been late for school every day since Tuesday as I search for the news.

Mrs R E DUNN
Bishopthorpe, North Yorkshire

Sir: Enjoy, you said. Enjoy, I did. Thank you.

DAVID LEARNER
London SW17

Supportive fathers

Sir: There was nothing in the National Childbirth Trust survey on *Birth in Britain* about men fainting, being sick, needing medical treatment or distracting midwives ("Fathers seen as a nuisance at births", 15 September).

The survey found that while 84 per cent of women had their partner present, only 59 per cent said their partner was supportive. This raises interesting issues about what support women need in labour and who may be best able to provide it. It also raises questions about how well prepared men are for their partner being in pain and for giving support.

The Audit Commission found that 25 per cent of women were left alone in labour at a time when it worried them not to have the support of a health professional. We need more midwives so that men are not being asked to do the impossible job of providing reassurance at a time when they themselves may feel anxious and out of their depth.

We also need more discussion during pregnancy about which individuals might provide support alongside the midwife - partner, friend or both - and what preparation they need for the role.

MARY NEWBURN
Head of Policy Research
National Childbirth Trust
London W3

Waiting at Tesco

Sir: When I go to my local petrol station I wait ages to pay for my petrol behind all the people paying for their groceries. At the local grocer's shop I wait equally long behind people buying lottery tickets.

Now it seems from the comments of the chief executive of Tesco ("Tesco raises stakes in supermarket banking battle", 17 September) that in Sainsbury and Tesco supermarkets I will soon be waiting ages behind people doing their banking business at the check-out.

Oh for the time when people stuck to their primary business and tried to do it well for the benefit of all.

JACK CAMPBELL
Steyning, West Sussex

Now the corporation will find it much easier to suppress the 'Birt is an alien' story



MILES KINGSTON

For those of us who do not work in the BBC, like you and me, it may be difficult to see why John Birt's proposed changes to the news service are causing such a furor, but if you are someone who has a privileged insight into the workings of the BBC after many years standing in lifts and canteens at the BBC listening to other people gossiping, as I have done, then you are in a position to explain to the readers just what this really does mean.

So here we go. First of all, you have to understand how a news story is treated at the BBC.

Let us follow a news story from its breaking-point to its disappearance.

Not an extraordinary sto-

ry like the death of Princess Diana. If that happens, all programmes are cancelled and the whole of the BBC's resources are beamed on the story until everyone is sick to death of it. Then it goes on for another week or so after that point, until the BBC is sure it has got its routines right for when the Queen Mother pops off.

No, let us take an ordinary, quite important story.

Let us suppose that the news agencies have picked up on a report that John Birt, director-general of the BBC, is an alien from another planet who has been lodged at the top of our most important broadcasting company to destabilise the world for a possible invasion.

The circumstantial evidence

seems quite strong. For years it has been pointed out that John Birt has no obvious human characteristics at all.

He never seems to lose his temper, or defend himself, or indulge in arguments. He just states what he wants.

He is not old but has white hair.

He dresses in a nondescript yet expensive way - as someone once said, he has all the lack of style that money can buy.

He does not even look like himself - in some mysterious way, John Birt looks more like other people who look like him than he looks like himself, many of whom may also come from the same planet.

His published statements are in a language which is termed

"Birtist" talk, which is very like English but tinged with what people perceive as management gobbledegook. But it may not be management gobbledegook at all. It is very like the kind of English which an expert but not quite perfect alien would use and may reflect the way English is taught on other planets.

This alien being, then, has been put at the top of the BBC in order to control our news services, and to start undermining the best reporters and creative news heads we have. One day he makes his move and announces a radical shake-up which would take power from the human beings in charge of news programmes and concentrate it in the hands of

three or four executive editors.

OK. That is the story that comes in to the BBC.

Now, at present, the news would be fed out to all the different editors of the different programmes, and they would be given a free hand to interpret the story differently.

One might concentrate on Birt's early and strangely inept struggle to get a favourable tax scheme going.

Another might focus on the way Birt has brought the BBC to a stuttering limp with his "producer choice" (a rather odd term which in fact means the process of eliminating the BBC's own resources and concentrating its facilities).

Another might get in Anthony Howard and two other

"experts" to discuss whether in fact the BBC might not benefit from being run by expertise from another planet, hostile or not.

There might also be discussion of Birt's other-worldly lack of style in dress, his lack of a human presence, his apparent fear of anyone in the BBC who has creative or imaginative faculties, his dread of promoting individuality or anything with a strongly personal flavour, and so on - all the factors which in fact do strongly suggest that Mr "Birt" is not of this world, but governed by an agenda from another world.

Under the new plans of Mr "Birt", all this will go. These editors will not have that kind of power any more. In fact, that

kind of editor will not exist any more. It will all go through some sort of centralised agency run by agents chosen personally by Mr "Birt".

So, under the new system, what will happen to the story that Mr "Birt" is actually a being from another planet sent to undermine the BBC and get rid of all dangerous elements in it?

The story will be referred to a central BBC news sorting office handling all news for radio and TV.

After due consideration, it will decide not to run the item at all, but to drop it like a hot potato. Just you wait and see.

If this item does not appear under the new BBC news system, I think I will have made my point.

Can we trust the judges to make our laws?



**DONALD
MACINTYRE**
ON FREEDOM
OF INFORMATION

We are on the brink of a constitutional change which raises questions decidedly more fundamental than a Welsh Assembly. Next month the Government will publish a White Paper incorporating the European Convention of Human Rights into British law. The logic of this step is irresistible. Even now, when it is faced with a ruling that is in breach of the Convention, the British government invariably, if grudgingly, conforms. The current immigration bill going through Parliament, for example, contains – in order to conform to a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights – belated provision for appeal against summary deportation on security grounds. But it seems crazy that to seek enforcement of the Convention, to which the UK has been a party since 1951, a citizen has to embark on the tortuous and often prohibitively expensive process of appealing to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, on which no British judge sits, and which takes around five years to reach a decision.

Anything more calculated to deter is difficult to imagine. Throughout the wide spectrum of non-Conservative opinion, and among some Conservatives as well, there is now agreement that it should be up to British courts, in the first instance, to apply the Convention. But there has been a protracted debate inside and outside Whitehall over just how it should be incorporated. Should the new system be like that in Canada, where the courts have the power to strike out laws made by parliament if they regard them as an infringement of the nation's Charter of Rights and Freedoms? Or should it be like that of New Zealand where the courts interpret the law as far as possible in accordance with the country's Bill of Rights, but cannot overturn statutes which they decide do not. In other words, in New Zealand, though not in Canada, it is still up to parliament and not the courts to change the law.

Here ministers have finally resolved the argument in favour of the more limited New Zealand model. During a lengthy discussion of the issue at the first meeting this week of the joint Labour-LibDem Cabinet Committee, Paddy Ashdown and his colleagues were assured by the ministers that the White Paper has not yet reached its final draft. But Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, has always been a New Zealand man. Even Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who had at one time leaned towards the more radical Canadian option, has been persuaded that it would be better at least to start with the more modest form of incorporation. It's still possible that, as in Hong Kong, the courts will be given some power to repeal sections of previous legislation. But Tony Blair's willingness to devolve power – whether to the Bank of England, to a Welsh assembly, or a directly elected mayor of London – will not extend to handing judges the power to

render null and void laws made henceforth by his government.

This will upset a lot of people. Many of those in favour of constitutional reform believe that the only way to protect individual rights is precisely to give the courts the absolute right to strike down laws which are judged to undermine them. This is seductive. And especially after the dark years in which only judicial review restrained recidivist offenders like Michael Howard from chronically exceeding their powers. The dangers now may be different but they are potentially even greater. Wouldn't you rather have your freedom in the hands of those nice, liberal judges, the Woolfs and Richard Scotts and Bingham, than handed to a whips' office dedicated to the ruthless use of party discipline to act as the chief engine of an elective dictatorship?

Seductive, but, for at least two reasons, not conclusive. The first is that some rights have an awkward habit of conflicting with each other. Given the failure of successive governments, supreme in their fear of the power of the press, to act on privacy, incorporation may produce a welcome body of case law curbing press intrusion. But the ECHR right to privacy could, on some occasions, conflict with the ECHR right to freedom of expression. The right to abortion, freely legislated by Parliament, could clash with an ultra-strict interpretation of the right to life. Should, as in the US, rights to self-protection make impossible the post-Dunblane anti-gun legislation? And should rights of free assembly always supersede, for example, in Northern Ireland, the security of the majority of citizens. This isn't a case against the enforcement of rights; it is a case against leaving that enforcement entirely to the unfettered and varying choices of individual judges. These decisions are essentially political; do we really want to deprive elected politicians of the power to make those decisions if they choose?

The other reason to hesitate is this: for all the highly-desirable expansion of judicial review during the last 20 years against abuses by ministers, judges haven't, in the round, proved themselves quite the reliable liberals the reformers like to think they are. In the new edition of his wonderful *Politics of the Judiciary* John Griffiths brings up to date – with the miscarriage of justice cases and the rulings against the press in the 1980s – his account of their record over the last 30 years. On issues from race relations to police powers and government secrecy, judges have been supporters, sometimes quite creative and pro-active supporters, of the "conventional, established and settled interests". As one of the most eminent legal academics in the country, Griffiths isn't disrespectful of judges – just very clear about where their role should begin and end. Michael Howard's sentencing proposals may have been extreme; but elected politicians do have the right to have a penal policy, even if judges don't agree with it. And is their own record in using sentencing discretion really so perfect? "Far more than on the judiciary," Griffiths writes, "our freedoms depend on the willingness of the press, politicians and others to publicise the breach of these freedoms and the continuing vulnerability of ministers... and other interests to accusations that these freedoms are being infringed." Especially at a time like this, when the media have been seduced, and the executive's parliamentary majority is unhealthily monolithic, it's tempting to turn wishfully to the judges, even unelected judges appointed entirely by the government, and with retirement ages of 75. But in the end judges are no substitute for boring, imperfect old democracy.

Britain is unbuttoning, but it will not bring the changes many expect



**SUZANNE
MOORE**
ON THE
NEW MOOD

We're only a couple of weeks AD – After Diana, and already we are asking if any of it meant anything at all really. "So what has really changed then?" friends ask, disappointed that I have not presented them with the Queen's head on a stick. Others, less cynical, more optimistically announce that Britain has unbuttoned and we that have entered some touchy-feely New Age which signifies a rebirth of national identity. Yet the truth as they say, is somewhere out there and it is not the sort of thing that moulds itself into pre-determined political ideologies.

This is why the scuffle to find direct political correlates for the public response to Diana's death was always going to be doomed. A cultural revolution cannot be reduced to the case for or against the monarchy. Hostility to the present Royal Family cannot be read simply as a form of direct action republicanism. But equally, arguing that the whole episode actually shored up the monarchy by forcing it to modernise itself slightly does not mean that an enormous amount of disquiet was not expressed or that things can ever go back to business as usual.

The search for immediate and tangible political consequences reached a form of hysteria far more out of control than any of the behaviour exhibited by the dignified masses. We know, don't we, that something significant happened a couple of weeks ago. Yet the very vagueness of it all is disturbing to those who prefer "significance" always to be wrapped up in little policy packages. The old Establishment was caught on the hop. There was no trickle-down effect in the grief for Diana. Rather this was a movement from the bottom up that did not so much proclaim the birth of a new order as illustrate how unconcerned we were with the old one.

For those in power this movement felt spontaneous. But in fact the signs have been there for a long time. The desire for collective rituals has



PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP MEECH

never gone away. For football fans and rave-goers or anyone who can remember going on demonstrations, the powerful experience of just being with huge numbers of others will not be new. The policing of all crowds, rehearsed during the miners' strikes and fanned by the continuing attacks on New Age travellers, revealed a government deeply fearful of any gathering of people at all. The tragedies of Hillsborough and Hessel confirmed that crowds were essentially dangerous in themselves. It is not, as Simon Jenkins says, that the left has an orgasm every time it sees people on the streets, it is just unusual for such an event to be construed as unthreatening.

To say, though, that this is somehow the end of the ghostly individualism of the Eighties is another misreading. The need for communal ritual, for the acknowledgement of such a thing as society, can sit easily with a highly individualistic culture. The Blairite project promotes the idea of a fairer, more caring society precisely out of self-interest. "Your life will be better if other people's lives are better too," it says.

"And we must make other people's lives better not because of beliefs or ideologies but because you personally will benefit."

Likewise the "feminisation" of society, which recent events are said to have triggered, sits alongside yet more surveys showing that men do as little housework as they ever did, that the glass ceiling remains intact in many professions, and that women still have far less leisure time than men. What I am suggesting, then, is that a culture can shift, a mood can change, new forms can emerge and yet many old structures can stay in place. The mistake is to presume that cultural shifts are somehow less "real" or less "meaningful" than the traditional manifestations of political power. What we have witnessed is, in Raymond Williams's phrase, a new "structure of feeling" that was already present but surfaced as a result of Diana's death. It combines a number of things – some of which coincide with the coming to power of Blair, but many of which don't.

Talking to people in the crowds at the Palace I was struck more by the sense of

inant culture was taken completely by surprise at the strength of feeling that Diana's death provoked.

The strength of the dominant official culture is already precarious because it rests on assumptions about the way we live which are no longer tenable. The "all drugs are evil" line is laughable to large numbers of the population. It is not so much out of touch as merely irrelevant. Its legitimacy is overruled every weekend.

The devolving of political power, seen as part of New Britain, has also to be seen in the context of cultural devolution – the moving away from the old centres of power to new and unexpected ones. It's good to see these old certainties being shaken and stirred. The image of a still dazed and confused Tory party that can't quite believe the world in which it now finds itself is immensely cheering. On one level it feels as if this has happened overnight, yet at another we know it's been years in the making. The sense of looking forward rather than backwards, the celebration of our booming arts industry, the storming of the academy by a new generation of artists, is all nicely upbeat.

To gather up all this diversity, all these contradictory elements in the name of a post-modern form of nationalism – based not on allegiance to one's country but on allegiance to one's own innate sense of "cool" – is to miss the point. The Government may need to do this but the rest of us don't have to. The need to divide up what's hot and what's not, what's new and what's old, is reassuring perhaps for those who feel the need a map around the country that they now feel foreign, uncomfortable and embarrassed to be in.

The people out on the streets for Diana were exactly the opposite. They felt at home, at ease and that they belonged together. They did not need an official sanctioning and those whose job it is to give it may well feel redundant. Something that was perceived as only going on at the edges has moved inwards and the centre cannot hold because it suddenly appears as one little sub-culture jostling alongside the others for our attention. Will that really change things? Yes and no. It only means that we're just waking up to the extent to which things have already changed.

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Fifteen years after the bloodbath, the world turns its back



ROBERT FISK
IN SABRA AND
CHATILA

Exactly 15 years ago, I walked into a place of such horror that – for the first and only night of my life – I suffered ferocious nightmares. I had walked into the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila in Beirut while Israel's Lebanese militia thugs were still finishing their work of butchery and rape. There were corpses covered in flies, disembowelled women, babies with bullets in their heads. To cross one street, I had to clamber over a pile of bodies, their arms and stomachs and heads pressing around my legs. All that moved were the flies that covered my face and the minute hands of the watches on dead

wrists. On the other side of the pile was a mass grave. When I hid myself crouching beside a beautiful young woman whose blood was still running from a hole in her back.

I stopped counting bodies when I reached 100. They say that 600 were killed although there is, I am certain, a mass grave near Beirut golf course which contains perhaps another 1,400 Palestinians – because truck-loads of bodies were seen being driven there under the eyes of the Israelis and because 2,000 was the number of refugees listed as missing after the slaughter. Either way, the Israelis had surrounded the camp, had sent in the militiamen to kill "terrorists" and had then – according to Israel's own commission of enquiry – watched the killings going on for two days.

The world expressed outrage. And Israel's minister of defence, Ariel Sharon, was sacked from his job after the commission found that he bore "personal responsibility" for the atrocity. Israel identified the leader of the gunmen who entered the camp as a Lebanese militiaman called Elie Hobeika. The world demanded that

the murderers be brought to justice. And there were promises galore: a new Middle East peace, protection for the Palestinians, an end to the Lebanese bloodbath.

And yesterday, walking through the filth and sewage and ruined (but still inhabited) huts of Sabra and Chatila, it was difficult to avoid the thought that the survivors of that most terrible massacre – understandably regarded in the Arab world as a war crime – have been kicked in the face by the world which expressed so much shame and revulsion. The mass grave is now covered in mud – children were playing football on it yesterday morning – and the Palestinians live among 20ft high heaps of rat-infested garbage. The smell of faeces seeps out of doorways where old women huddle beneath fading monochrome photographs of their dead. "And what did the world do for us?" Deebah Saleh Hussein asked me in the little hut she calls home. "What did you journalists do for us when you made us re-open our wounds?"

Deebah Hussein lost her husband Yousif, her four sons – Ghazi, Ahmed, Madi and Mohamed – her son-in-law Hussein

Ali, her own brother Hussein Saleh and his son Saleh, a cousin, the husband of another cousin and his 18-year-old daughter Afifi. All of them were hacked to death with axes by Israel's proxy militiamen. And when Deebah Hussein asked me what the world had done for the people of Sabra and Chatila, I had to answer her with one word: nothing.

Even in the immediate aftermath of the killings, the press concentrated on Israel's self-examination rather than the victims and their surviving relatives, not to mention the purpose of the slaughter. In its first cover issue on Sabra and Chatila, *Newsweek's* headline read: "Israel in Torment". The other main reports were entitled: "The Anguish of America's Jews" and the "Troubled Soul of Israel" – and all this when one might have expected that torment and anguish to be uniquely that of Palestinians like Deebah Hussein, whose entire family was cut to pieces in Beirut. Not so, it seems. Had Palestinians massacred 2,000 Israelis 15 years ago, would anyone doubt that the world's press and television would be remembering so terrible a deed this morning? Yet this week, not

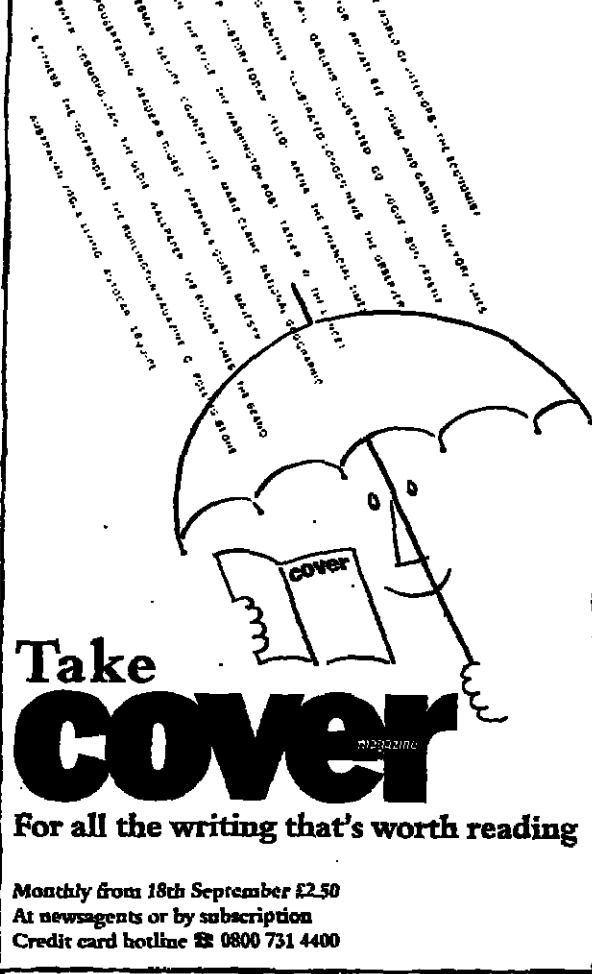
a single newspaper in the United States – or Britain for that matter – has even mentioned the anniversary of Sabra and Chatila.

And why should they? For the Palestinians in Beirut are non-persons. They or their parents fled from Palestine in 1948 – from that part of Palestine which became Israel – and can never return. They are cut out – totally – from the so-called Oslo "peace process", save for a dismissive reference to "refugees" in the last section. Nor can they live in Lebanon in any sense of the word. They cannot work; they cannot have Lebanese citizenship. And they exist without protection. Three years after the massacres, Sabra and Chatila were eight times besieged by Muslim Lebanese militiamen. So many died under the shells that the Palestinians buried their dead in basements. I saw some of these subterranean graves yesterday, bedecked with dust-covered, withered wreaths.

And what of Messrs Sharon and Hobeika, the Israeli minister and the Lebanese Maronite whom Israel held responsible? Well, Mr Sharon is back in the Israeli cabinet as minister of national infra-

structure. And quite incredible as it may seem, Mr Hobeika now holds a remarkably similar job in Lebanon. He is the minister of electricity and hydraulics in Beirut. And what of Sabra and Chatila? The Lebanese government, it seems, is planning to construct a spanking new motorway through the middle, a product of Beirut's wealth and reconstruction which will force the Palestinians from their huts. No one knows where they will go.

It's not surprising, therefore, that Deebah Hussein would like to get away, at least for a few months, from the heat and slums and shit. She has a daughter, Huda, who survived the massacre and now lives in Chicago. Deebah says she holds American citizenship. So Deebah set off recently to the US embassy in Damascus to ask for a visitor's visa. She was told, she says, that she could have no visa if she did not have children or a husband or property in Lebanon outside the Sabra and Chatila area. She has no Lebanese passport. And she certainly got no visa. So even 15 years after the bloodbath of Sabra and Chatila, the world is still punishing the survivors for being victims.



Coopers and PW to join forces in £8bn merger

In planning to merge, the leading international accountancy firms Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse say they are following the lead of their increasingly global clients.

Roger Trapp reports on the latest attempt at consolidation at the top of a market that has been buffeted by change.

Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, two of the best-known names in accounting, plan to merge to create a global organisation with 135,000 people and revenues of more than \$13bn (£8bn).

If it wins approval from regulators and the two existing firms' 8,500 partners, the combined firm – as yet unnamed – will overtake Andersen Worldwide, which last year reported its 100,000 employees had achieved revenues of \$9.5bn, as the largest professional services firm in the world. In the UK, it would be comfortably the biggest firm, claiming about 50 per cent of FTSE 100 companies as audit clients.

The plans – which could take several months to finalise – were announced yesterday in both New York and London. At a joint meeting in London, Peter Smith, chairman of the UK firm of Coopers, and Ian Brindle, deputy chairman of PW Europe, said they were a direct response to an increasing desire by global clients for a uniformly high standard of advice throughout the world.

"In the UK there are many companies with a truly global reach and this merger is about helping them to improve their competitiveness around the world. They expect their advisers to be just as global in the way they think and operate," Mr Smith said.

The merger proposal marks the first significant development since Arthur Andersen ac-

quired Binder Hamlyn, a highly-rated firm just outside the Big Six, in October 1994. But it continues a consolidation that began in the 1970s, so that by the beginning of the 1980s there were eight dominant firms. By the middle of this decade, that number had been reduced to the Big Six. It now looks as if the top tier will contain just five firms, though this development has prompted speculation that – provided competition authorities in Europe and the United States allow the deal – there could be yet another reduction, to four, with Deloitte Touche, formerly known as Touche Ross, thought to be the most likely target.

Much of this consolidation has been due to a more competitive environment. Regulatory audit, in particular, has come to be seen as a commodity service that produces little profit, and in the UK large accountancy firms have recently been following their practice in continental Europe of moving into the potentially more lucrative legal services market as well as bolstering their presence in the well-established field of management consultancy.

Coopers and PW claim to have produced record growth in revenue in recent years, but in a world of private partnerships where disclosure of financial information is not compulsory others suggest that the figures are not as good as those of some of their rivals.

The two firms put some of this down to a lack of trained staff, and claim that it is possible the combined firm would employ even more people than the two operations do now. James Schiro, currently chief executive of PW and due to take the same role in the merged operation, said both organisations were "firmly committed to providing outstanding career opportunities for our exceptionally talented people".

However, the two firms still have several hurdles to overcome before the deal can be completed. For instance, Coop-



Going global: Ian Brindle (left) of PW Europe and Peter Smith of Coopers & Lybrand

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

ers' previous merger, with the UK arm of Deloitte Haskins and Sells in the early 1990s, took a long time to complete and eventually led to the departure of many partners.

PW, on the other hand, has two attempted mergers behind it – with Deloitte and with Arthur Andersen. And Mr Brindle said he was determined that the process be completed as soon as possible.

In addition, there are inevitable differences between

the two firms' partnership arrangements, since PW has moved closer than many of its rivals to becoming a single world-wide partnership through the recent combination of the US and European operations.

In an effort to win their backing quickly, the management will be making extensive presentations to partners, staff and clients while the due diligence on both firms' world-wide operations continued.

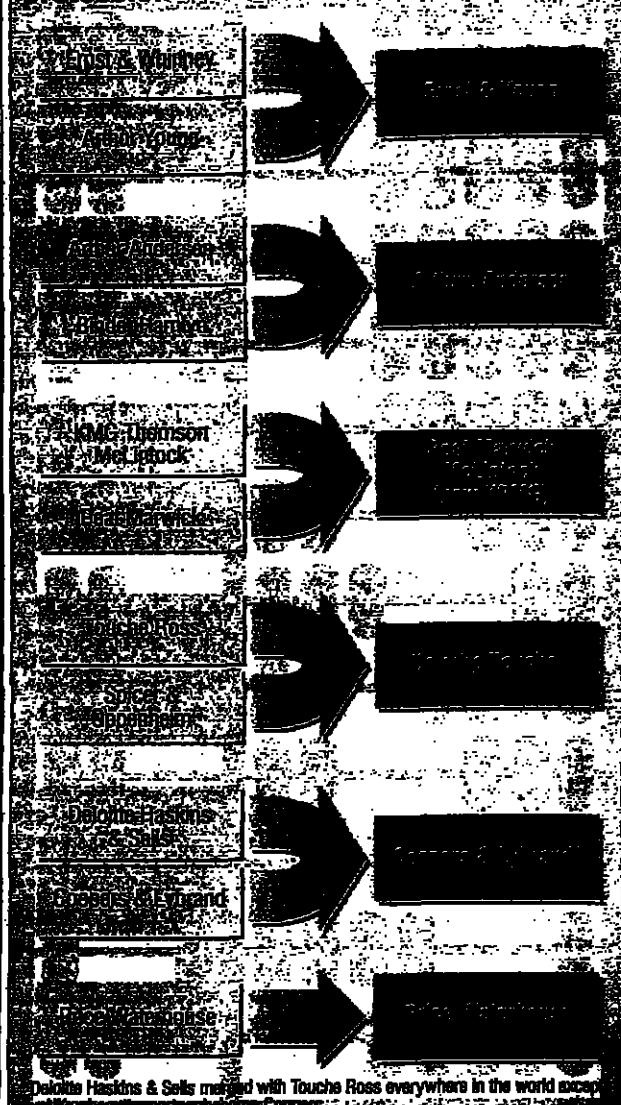
However, regulatory approval is perhaps the toughest potential stumbling block. Rival firms were quick to join the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants in pointing out the extent to which the deal would limit choice. Nick Land, senior partner of Ernst & Young, said he thought the competition aspect was "a real issue", while KPMG said it was concerned about that aspect.

Mr Brindle said the planned deal had come about through

"overtures" at various meetings between the two firms for some time. But he added that earnest talks had not begun until this summer.

The organisations' managements had decided to publicise the discussions once it had become clear that they had a lot in common in terms of strategy and vision. Furthermore, the two firms complemented each other geographically and in terms of business areas. However, it was being sug-

Consolidation at the top of the accounting profession



gested last night that the real driving factor behind the proposed deal was the two firms' comparative weakness in the United States. Coopers is fifth and PW sixth out of six.

Some rivals said that the development may have been prompted by Price Waterhouse, since it has been suggested that the firm had been struggling to repair its image in the wake of the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, of which it was

auditor. However, Mr Brindle dismissed these claims, while Mr Smith said his firm would not be contemplating a link if it felt there was a problem.

Pointing out that potential law suits were hanging over all the leading firms of accountants, he added that Coopers and PW were united in lobbying for a change in the law to allow professional partnerships to protect themselves from being wiped out by legal claims.

Care First directors set to quit over new chairman

Care First, the UK's largest nursing home operator, is facing a boardroom bust up. Four of Care First's seven managing directors are expected to quit the nursing home group after its board on Wednesday refused to remove Keith Bradshaw as chairman and reinstate Chai Patel, the group's former chief executive.

In what was called "disastrous news" by one shareholder, Tony Heywood, Care First's corporate development director, is expected to leave next week.

In addition, Sushil Radra, managing director of the southern region, Phil McAuley, marketing director, and Des Kelley, director of human resources, are all understood to have either contacted headhunters or expressed a desire to leave.

All four individuals were originally directors at Mr Patel's former company, Court Cavendish, which merged with Mr Bradshaw's Takara group last year. Mr Heywood was formerly finance director at Court Cavendish. A leading institution said that the departures would be damaging: "If Heywood goes it will be a very serious blow. He is the only one of any competence left."

News of the potential walk out came as two leading shareholders said yesterday they were "incensed" and "angry" about how SBC Warburg, joint adviser to Care First, had canvassed their views. Several said yesterday that they were considering calling an emergency meeting to make their views known.

Care First said on Wednesday that it had the support of the majority of the shareholders. However, several leading fund managers disagreed. "It feels like a stitch up," said one. "The remaining board and advisers have closed ranks."

I have canvassed colleagues and there is a sense that Warburg pressured us. They told me that I was in a minority of one in wanting Chai to come back. When I said anything negative, they tried to re-word it to sound more positive."

A second said: "We clearly stated we didn't want Bradshaw as any kind of chairman and they ignored our views."

A spokesman for Warburg said: "We can only represent what we have been told. I have no doubt that we faithfully represented their views."

Institutions said yesterday it would be difficult to recruit a high calibre chief executive with Mr Bradshaw remaining as non-executive director and also acting chief executive pending a replacement.

"We think Chai is the best person to run this company. He has the best reputation in the industry."

A third substantial shareholder said: "Keith has got through three chief executives. He owns 8 per cent of the equity and is a dominating personality. Bradshaw may be non-executive chairman, but he will continue to dominate."

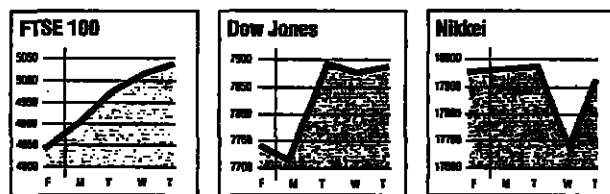
Paul Saper of healthcare consultant Laing & Buisson warned that the current management had a poor reputation in the industry.

"If Mr Bradshaw is staying on in any capacity it will damage the value of this company. Winning and keeping business will be much harder."

However, shareholders warned that reversing the board's decision would be difficult. "We choose battles we can win," said one. "This could be very messy and no one wants to stick their head above the parapet."

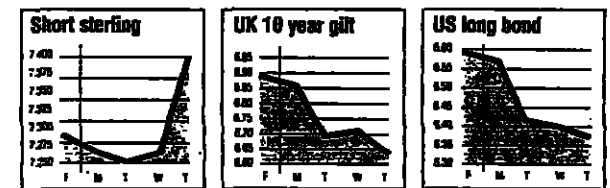
—Sameera Ahmed

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	5046.20	-33.10	-0.66	5086.80	3900.40	3.51
FTSE 250	4701.80	-15.00	-0.32	4728.40	4348.10	3.61
FTSE 350	2426.80	-14.40	-0.60	2438.00	1946.20	3.51
FTSE All Share	2370.17	-13.50	-0.57	2378.39	1925.79	3.50
FTSE SmallCap	2281.2	-5.80	-0.25	2374.20	2128.40	3.28
FTSE Personal	1770.2	-2.80	-0.16	1846.50	1768.70	3.27
FTSE AIM	1017.1	-2.80	-0.28	1138.00	1002.10	0.93
Dow Jones	8014.88	-94.85	-1.20	8259.31	5867.74	1.85
Nikkei	17930.09	-248.82	-1.40	21612.30	17303.85	0.85
Hang Seng	14419.45	-8.26	-0.06	16673.27	11146.70	2.88
Dax	4600.48	-10.00	-0.22	4438.93	3824.44	2.00

INTEREST RATES

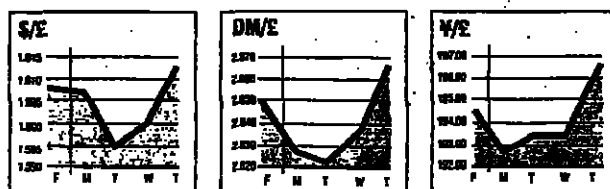


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	7.72	7.40	7.50	7.54	7.55
US	5.72	5.09	5.99	6.07	6.36
Japan	0.58	0.07	0.84	0.09	2.18
Germany	3.30	0.20	3.70	0.40	5.53

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Wool FR Index 308.50 23.50 6.25	Airbus PLC 1054.00 -38.50 -3.65
BNP Paribas 106.00 0.50 0.50	BMW Group PLC 95.50 -55.50 -5.97
London PLC 113.00 0.50 0.50	Body Shop Inc 7.00 -7.50 -9.09
Morrison (Wm) Sup 197.00 9.50 5.07	SIG PLC 11.50 -13.00 -11.30

CURRENCIES



Pound	at close	Change	Yr Ago	Dollar	at close	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6087	+0.786	1.5806	Sterling	0.6218	-0.300	0.6408
D-Mark	2.9571	+3.0118	2.9557	D-Mark	1.7813	+1.280	1.5094
Yen	195.98	+12.46	170.37	Yen	121.83	+11.08	109.17
£ Index	99.50	+0.40	88.20	S Index	105.10	-0.40	96.80

OTHER INDICATORS

at close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Mkt		
Brent Oil (\$)	18.16	0.12	21.77	GDP	112.20	3.40	109.1	24-Oct
Gold (\$)	320.55	0.30	383.35	RPI	158.50	3.5	153.14	7-Oct
Silver (\$)	4.63	0.05	5.05	Base Rate	7.00	5.75		

www.bloombergs.com source: **Bloomberg**

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

Poorer customers will not benefit from BG price cuts

Ofgas, the gas watchdog, yesterday launched an investigation into price cuts planned by British Gas which would see 3 million of its poorest customers excluded from reductions in bills. The announcement follows pressure from the Gas Consumers Council, which had argued the proposals could discriminate against certain customers. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports.

British Gas is proposing to slash an average of £28 off domestic gas bills from January, a cut of about 9 per cent. But Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply business which continues to use the familiar brand name, said only the 16 million households which paid by direct debit or settled their accounts promptly would benefit.

One million homes with prepayment meters would see no reduction while a further 2 million low-income customers using a variety of payment plans would mostly see cuts of less than 1 per cent. British Gas said it was waiting for the results of a review of the prepayment meter system by Ofgas before making any changes to these prices.

About half of the cuts are the result of reductions in gas transportation charges under a new price formula. The rest of the reduction stems from the abolition of the gas levy,

a tax on old North Sea gas contracts, in the Budget and cheaper wholesale prices paid by British Gas.

The Gas Consumers Council (GCC) claimed all consumers should benefit and this week used its powers under the gas legislation to ask Ofgas for a formal probe. John Battle, the industry minister, was also unhappy with the plans and is thought to have expressed concern during a meeting with Centrica's top management on Wednesday.

The watchdog, led by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, said it hoped to complete its new investigation by the end of the year. It will look at whether the reductions discriminate unduly between different groups of consumers. The probe will run in parallel with the look at the extra costs of servicing prepayment households.

Sue Shipman, the GCC director, said the investigation was exceedingly good news. "Clearly the regulator has accepted there's a case to investigate and we welcome that. There was a lot of public shock about the plans."

An Ofgas spokesman signalled that Ms Spottiswoode was also concerned at British Gas's proposals. "We guess that they can make savings and prepayment customers should get a reduction," he said.

Last night British Gas hinted that Ofgas had previously approved the price cuts but had been prompted to investigate after the GCC's intervention. In a statement the company said it hoped Ofgas would reach the same conclusions as it had before the new prices were announced last week.

P&O set for concessions to secure merger

Lord Sterling, the P&O chairman, yesterday held out the possibility of concessions to speed official approval of the planned merger of the group's Channel ferry operations with those of rivals Stena Line of Sweden.

Lord Sterling said they were ready to consider any undertakings that the Government or the European Commission might put forward, including a possible cap on prices to protect the consumer. If cleared, the new combination is expected to dominate the ferries market in the eastern part of the English Channel with a market share of around 45 per cent. Other suggestions from P&O include limiting berthing slots at Dover and Calais, the two main ports involved in the proposed merger, and cutting the number of ticket sales booths.

The group expects a decision in early October, but the P&O chairman also vented

his frustration at the authorities' delay in deciding on the merger, first unveiled nearly a year ago. They had had lots of meetings in Brussels and recently one with the UK's Office of Fair Trading, he said, but "otherwise we have been deafened by silence".

His comments came as P&O unveiled a dip in profits from £135m to £123m for the six months to June, hit by a collapse into loss of the container shipping business, now merged with Royal Nedlloyd's container operations. Now recovering, Lord Sterling said the business could be floated in New York if it could be enlarged.

Profits more than doubled at Bovis Homes, from £5.9m to £13.3m as margins rose on the back of a 32 per cent jump in completions and a 6 per cent increase in house prices.

—Magnus Grimand
Investment column, page 26



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BUSINESS & CITY
EDITOR:
JEREMY WARNER
NEWS DESK:
0171-293 2636
FAX:
0171-293 2098
E-MAIL:
INDYBUSINESS@
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OF THE YEAR

Regulators watch closely as six become five

The big six are to become the big five and in one fell swoop Arthur Andersen is toppled from pole position. If this is allowed through without regulatory obstruction, it cannot be long before Deloitte Touche at the bottom of the pile is picked off too and the five will become four. Coopers and Price Waterhouse were trying to make light of it all yesterday (no cost-cutting and no redundancies involved), but if nobody very much is complaining too much yet, it is hard to believe this can long remain the case.

One of accountancy's professional bodies, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, has already come out again, as have some of the other big practices, while the constituents of the FTSE 100, half of whom will be audited by this new accounting behemoth once the merger goes through, are almost bound to kick up a fuss if they believe the marriage might lead to higher audit fees.

These, the two partners are swift to tell us, are under severe pressure and nowadays barely compensate for the risks of being sued for negligent work. Even so if the competition authorities in either Brussels or Washington are persuaded that the merger will limit the choice of audit partnership and drive up fees, they may be tempted to block the road.

In some respects all the affable Peter Smith at Coopers and his opposite number, Ian Brindle at PW, are doing here is aping their own clients. They even use some of the same jargon. Phrases like "global reach" and "enhancing the brand"

are now so much part of the new "big is beautiful" global corporation that it is hard to fault the people who audit these enterprises for aspiring to the same thing. When all around you is going global, what choice do you have but to go global too? All the same, there is a distinctly defensive feel about this merger.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that expanding the audit base is going to lead clients to buy the other value added services the big practices offer - consultancy, tax planning, legal services and the like - in any greater quantity than they already do. Arthur Andersen's spectacular success in consultancy is largely unrelated to its captive audit base. Messrs Smith and Brindle shouldn't have too much difficulty selling this alliance to their own partners; whether clients too can be persuaded is rather more doubtful.

Dogfight with US set to rumble on

Europe and the US may have settled for a score drawn over the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger, but the dogfight over which side gives its aerospace and defence industry more back-door government support rumbles on.

The latest broadside comes in the shape of a revealing set of statistics drawn up by the European Association of Aerospace Industries. Its 1996 survey shows that whereas government contracts now ac-

count for less than 30 per cent of industry turnover in Europe, the comparative figure for the US is 50 per cent.

Whilst Europe's aerospace companies have had to make their way by building up export and commercial aircraft orders, Boeing, Lockheed et al still rely to a remarkable extent on Uncle Sam asking them to find ever more inventive and expensive ways of trashing the enemy.

The ripple effects from the Pentagon's astronomical procurement and research and development budgets are there to see. Europe might support its industries with state aid, but the US government-funded military programme has spawned and supported just as much industrial activity. It's a bit rich of the US to come over all indignant about state subsidies to industry when its own military programme is just a different version of the same thing.

On a narrower front, the advantages of having a large and unfragmented home market and a single buyer to deal with are also apparent. The sheer scale of the US military machine makes it a potent force in export markets as well, which is partly why Europe ran up a 9bn ecu deficit in aerospace trade with the US in 1996.

The question is how should Europe's aerospace industry go about rectifying the problem and overcoming its relative disadvantage. Whingeing is all well and good but no amount of statistical evidence will change the central thrust of US military procurement policy or the support the US gives its aerospace companies.

The best riposte for Europe must be to take the Americans on at their own game. It would be too much to ask the 15 EU member states to draw up a joint aerospace policy overnight. But the industry can help itself by ensuring that the pace of consolidation here matches that taking place in the US. That requires political will as much as commercial impetus. In particular, the French need to make a start by pressing ahead with the privatisation of Thomson and Aerospatiale. Without this, Airbus will never see the light of day as a single commercial entity, nor will the consolidation necessary in the defence sector take place.

No love lost in Care First row

Broken promises, power struggles and betrayal. Who would have expected such things from a dear old nursing home company? But there is undoubtedly a hum-dinger of a row going on at Care First, the UK's biggest nursing home operator.

The story is starting to look remarkably similar to last year's Eurotherm saga which ended with institutional shareholders ousting the incumbent chairman and reinstating its chief executive Claes Hultman. Like him, Chai Patel, Care First's chief executive quit after a power struggle with a chairman who can't let go of the reins. Like him, Mr Patel wants to come back and has the support of a num-

ber of shareholders who say he is the best thing since sliced bread.

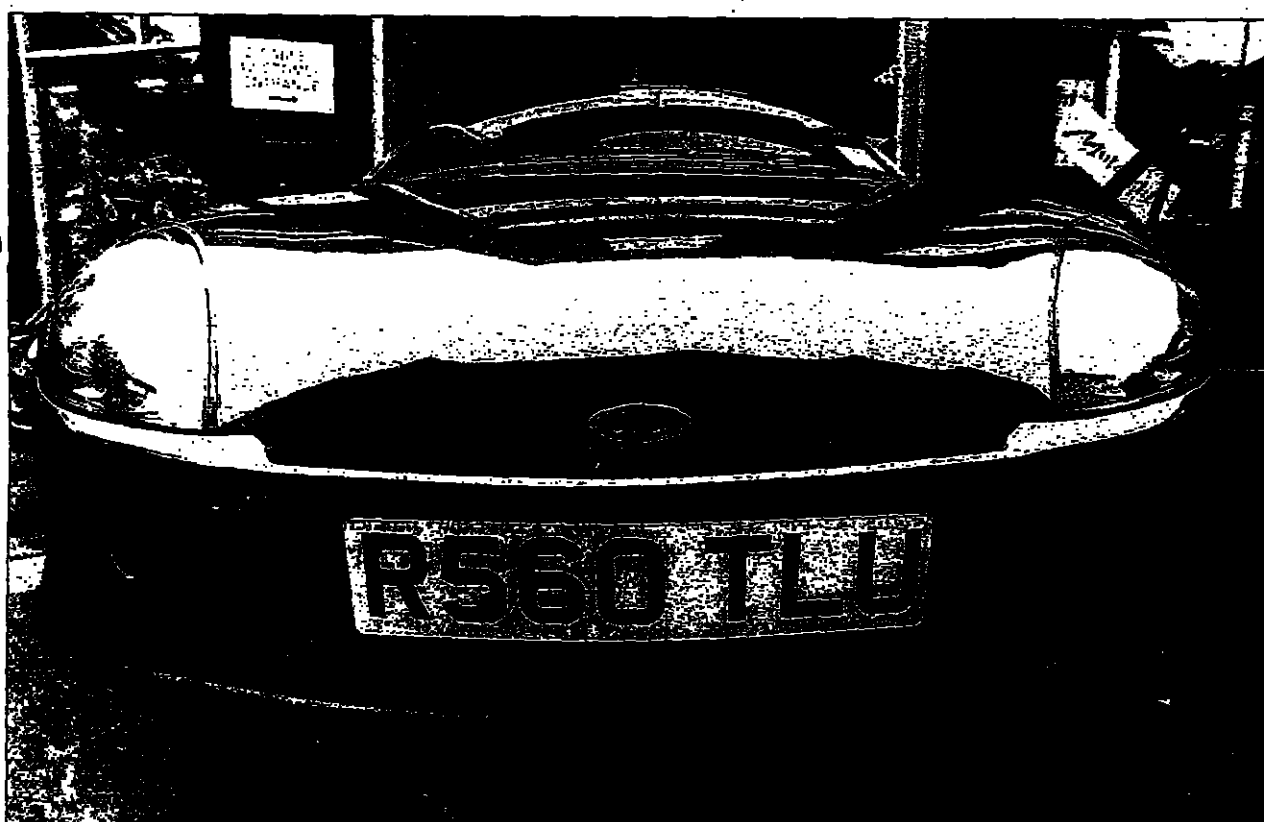
As if that were not enough, Mr Patel seems to have the support of a large number of customers too, some of who say he has vision and an unequalled understanding of a particularly tough industry. And to top it all, he even has a reasonable level of support on the board.

The genesis of this row is last year's merger between Mr Patel's Court Cavendish and Keith Bradshaw's Takara to form the Care First combine.

Court Cavendish was always probably the better company but it was not the biggest and it was never likely that Mr Bradshaw would yield the controls without a fight. In the end the two found it impossible to live together and as often happens in life, it was the better of the two that lost out.

However the tide may be turning. Mr Bradshaw is looking increasingly isolated. Though he seems to have the support of the non-executive directors, some senior executives are threatening to leave. Promising to surrender his executive powers after a suitable alternative chief executive is found is no longer enough to satisfy those shareholders who want to see the back of him. It might have worked at an earlier stage but it is too late for that now.

Mr Bradshaw continues to insist that the majority of shareholders support him. Many don't believe him. The moment must have come for the matter to be put to the vote.



Carry on scrambling: The Government has postponed a decision on reforming the August registration change

Car registration changes postponed

The Government has postponed a decision on reforming the annual August change to the car registration, forcing the industry to abandon its plan for a twice-yearly number-plate change starting from next March.

Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports.

The car industry had spent much of this year trying to persuade the Government to back its plan for a bi-annual registration change. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) had expected to hear the decision from the new Department of Transport and the Environment in July

and had been repeatedly told that an announcement was "imminent."

But it emerged yesterday that the car dealers' association, the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI), was told a few days ago by ministers that the switch to a twice-yearly plate-change in March was no longer possible.

At a meeting with Christopher Macgowan, the RMI's chief executive, Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said she was "embarrassed" that the Government had still not made a decision. The minister added that March 1998 was now "off the agenda."

Mr Macgowan said: "This is a colossal setback. We are less than happy with the performance of government who claim to be close to business. If this is an example of being close to business I shudder for the fu-

ture." The SMMT is understood to have been given similar news in a telephone call from the department earlier this week. An official is thought to have confirmed that the industry's solution was "not on".

The SMMT declined to comment on the conversation yesterday, but a spokesman said the car industry was "very unhappy" at the situation. "We do not understand the delay in announcing the change when the whole industry is united. We would say: please minister, tell us what the delay is for."

The previous government issued a consultation paper on changing the system last December and the RMI and SMMT responded in March with an agreed industry plan. Originally they had recommended four changes a year to number plates, but re-grouped around the bi-annual change

after concerns that the vehicle licensing agency, the DVLA, would not be able to cope. The existing run of letters would continue twice a year until the end of the alphabet.

Coping with the August car bonanza costs manufacturers millions of pounds each year, to build up stocks of 500,000 right-hand drive cars. Though a twice-yearly registration change would have cost the DVLA several hundred thousand pounds, the industry had recently offered to fund the additional cost. But car makers needed a decision this month to arrange their production schedules to meet a March deadline.

Government sources yesterday blamed the delay on technical issues at the DVLA, but indicated that a reform of the system could happen later in 1998.

Exports recover from pounding

Export orders are beginning to stabilise after the hammering they took at the hands of the strong pound earlier in the summer but they still remain weak, the Confederation of British Industry reported yesterday.

At the same time, new figures on money supply, mortgage lending and car output painted a picture of a relatively subdued economy. This contrasts sharply with the retail sales and average earnings figures published earlier in the week which pointed to the need for a further increase in interest rates.

The CBI's latest monthly

trends inquiry shows that the balance of manufacturers reporting lower-than-normal export order books has improved slightly from 37 per cent in August to 35 per cent in September. Between the two surveys, sterling fell by 4 per cent against the German mark from DM3.01 to DM2.89.

The CBI said that despite the decline sterling's strength was continuing to have a dampening effect. Yesterday the pound rose by more than three pence to DM2.8657 and broke back through 100 on the trade-weighted index.

Sudhir Janankar, a CBI economist, said: "Although our

survey shows export demand still to be weak there is just a hint from the figures that the sharp deterioration seen since June may have levelled off."

The survey also suggests that inflationary pressures in industry remain under control with price expectations at their lowest level for five years. Total orders weakened slightly in September, reflecting a slight moderation in domestic orders and leaving overall demand below normal for the sixth month in succession.

Separately, government figures showed that UK car production fell by a seasonally adjusted 12.8 per cent in the six

months ended August. Production for the home market was down 19 per cent while export output was down 7.7 per cent.

Meanwhile broad money supply figures came in slightly below expectations, growing by 11.6 per cent in the year to August and 0.7 per cent for the month. Bank mortgage lending was down on the six-month average at £753m while the increase in total personal credit was its lowest since March. Figures from the Building Societies Association showed net advances in August 20 per cent down on a year ago at £900m.

— Michael Harrison

Britain urged to be in EMU from the start

Jacques Santer, EU president, yesterday called on Britain to join the first wave of European monetary union in 15 months' time. He painted a glowing picture of what monetary union could achieve for Europe as it moved into a new era and insisted it would start on schedule on 1 January 1999.

Only one major decision remained, on who would be in the first wave, and Mr Santer said this would be taken next spring during Britain's six-month EU presidency. "The United Kingdom has an opt-

out. So the decision is in the hands of Her Majesty's government, parliament and the people," he told an audience in Glasgow.

"Naturally, we hope you will join us at the beginning or soon after. The time is right."

Mr Santer repeated the importance with which European monetary union was viewed for a single market, saying: "I cannot imagine the functioning of a great internal market with 15 member states and 15 different currencies." He said monetary union would lessen currency

uncertainty, enhance competitiveness, give a new international monetary role of "immense importance" for the EU and make Europe more attractive to inward investment.

He said there was cause for optimism as the EU approached the next century with its economies improving, public spending being disciplined, interest rates low and the single market being "battered down".

But for the vision of a new Europe to succeed, it had to be able to create more jobs and

there was a need for fresh initiatives on this.

The European leaders' summit in November would seek a targeted approach concentrating on entrepreneurship, adaptability and employability, he said, adding: "Old-fashioned restrictive practices are simply incompatible with the needs of modern, mobile, international capital."

The EU president was addressing a meeting of Scotland Europa, a body drawn from industry and public life to promote Scotland's interests in the EU.

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Buoyant Mirror Group predicts overhaul of media ownership rules

David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group (above), is confident that the Labour government will undertake a 'major overhaul' of media ownership legislation before too long. And, as Cathy Newman reports, the company is hopeful of a better deal under the present Government than under the previous administration.

After announcing a 12 per cent increase in profit before tax and exceptional to £43.7m for the half-year, Mr Montgomery said: "Before the turn of the century, possibly, there will be a major overhaul of media ownership rules. Some restrictions may be lifted."

In an attack on the Conservative's media policies, he added: "We don't expect any favours from the Labour administration, but we do believe there will be fairness in a way there wasn't with the Tory government."

Current media ownership legislation, enshrined in the 1996 Broadcasting Act, prevents newspaper groups such as Mir-

ror Group that control 20 per cent or more of national newspaper circulation from owning terrestrial radio and television stations. Mirror Group could not, for example, take over Scottish Television, in which it has a 20 per cent stake, under the existing rules.

A spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday that ministers had "no plans at present" to change the media ownership laws.

For the six months to the end of June, Mr Montgomery said profits had been helped by a "strong performance from our core newspapers". The relaunch of the group's flagship title, *The Mirror*, enabled the title to notch up a 0.5 per cent gain in market share against its main rival, the *Sun*, for the January to June period.

The Independent would enter into profit next year, Mr Montgomery said. Mirror has a 46 per cent stake in *The Independent's* owner, Newspaper Publishing. Operating losses at Newspaper Publishing fell by 32 per cent, compared with the same period last year.

Growth in advertising revenue also contributed to the profits improvement. Classified advertising was particularly strong, increasing by 24 per cent.

The interim dividend is 1.5p, up from 1.35p.

Wm Morrison banks on Midland for expansion

William Morrison, the supermarket chain, unveiled plans to expand its financial services joint venture with Midland Bank by eventually installing a bank in the majority of its 83-strong chain. It has already opened four in-store banks and plans to open another five by the end of the year. The group is also creating 5,400 new jobs as part of a £200m investment programme. It has opened two new stores so far this year and plans to open another eight by next summer, including its first sites in the south of England. Morrison announced an 11.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £61.7m for the six months to 3 August.

Daiwa raided over 'pay-offs'

Authorities in Japan raided Daiwa Securities as a scandal over pay-offs to a gangster widened to encompass Japan's second-largest brokerage. Some 100 investigators entered Daiwa's headquarters in Tokyo seeking evidence that it paid ¥67.28m (£345,000) to the alleged corporate racketeer Ryuichi Koike, prosecutors said. A spokesman for Daiwa said: "We are taking the situation seriously and intend to fully co-operate with the authorities." Noriura Securities and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank have already been charged with making illegal payments to Mr Koike.

Whirlpool to axe 4,700 jobs

Whirlpool Corp announced substantial organisational changes, including the loss of 4,700 jobs in Asia, Europe and North America. The company said it planned to increase efficiencies in its European operations through product consolidations and facility closings, while seeking strategic alliances or other alternatives for two Chinese joint ventures. In connection with these changes in its overseas affiliates, the company said it expected a pre-tax charge of about \$350m (£217m) in the third quarter.

British Borneo advances

British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate was bullish about prospects as it announced an increase in half-year pre-tax profits from £8.1m to £8.9m. Alan Gaynor, chief executive said: "We now have nine appraisal projects in the UK, four development and three appraisal projects in the deep water Gulf of Mexico and high quality exploration acreage in both regions. These combine to provide significant growth potential for British-Borneo." Interim dividend is unchanged at 1p.

Breathing space for MMC

The Government has agreed an extension of the time allowed for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report on the acquisition by National Express Group of the ScotRail and Central Trains rail franchises. The Department of Trade and Industry said in a statement: "Following representations from the MMC that detailed and time-consuming route-by-route analysis of numerous overlaps between rail and coach services has been entailed in both inquiries, Mrs Beckett [Trade Secretary] has concluded that the reporting period should in both instances be extended to 3 October." The MMC was originally asked to report on the acquisitions by today.

Sun Life to join Footsie after shares soar

Sun Life & Provincial Holdings, the UK's third-largest life and pensions group, is set to enter the FTSE 100 after a 30 per cent rise in its share price. Andrew Verity reports on a company that defied predictions that a merger of its subsidiaries would affect sales.

Sun Life & Provincial will enter the top 100 companies in the UK next week with a market capitalisation of £3.3bn following the completion of a merger between its two main subsidiaries, Axa Equity & Law and Sun Life, and a dramatic out-performance of the market since flotation last year.

Chief executive Mark Wood said much of the rise in share price, to 419p compared with 307p on flotation, was due to track-record funds scrambling to buy the small free float of shares available to outside investors. Parent company Axa UAP owns 72.4 per cent of the equity but plans gradually to sell its stake until it is left with a 65 per cent share.

The share price rose 8p yesterday on the back of pre-tax profits up 17.2 per cent to £121.4m. The company boosted its interim dividend to 3.8p from a pro forma 3.34p at the time of flotation and predicted a full-year payout of 11.4p.

Mr Wood confirmed the company would have to shed some of its 7,500 staff as it restructured. Most are expected to leave voluntarily but some compulsory redundancies may be considered.

He said: "We have given ourselves two years to achieve the bulk of cost savings. Given our current staff turnover and the changes we have planned we hope there's no need to impose compulsory redundancies on any scale."

"But if we find ourselves with a very small team of specialist people in a location and can't come to an agreement, then we may have to look at that."

The merger of Axa Equity & Law and Sun Life has generated fears, especially among staff at Axa, that they may be forced to leave or switch to a different role.

Low morale is understood to have affected new business figures, leading both Sun Life and Equity & Law to be left behind in the selling bonanza enjoyed by rivals in the first half of this year.

Sun Life, usually one of the country's most popular offices among independent financial advisers, sold less regular premium business between January and June than it had in the first half of 1996.

The Equity & Law side of the business saw more robust sales with a rise of 10 per cent in premiums to new policies. But it fell behind other life offices which saw sales of life assurance and pensions booming by as much as 30 per cent.

Sun Life and Axa Equity & Law will operate as one company but with two brands. Sun Life will keep its name while Equity & Law will become Axa Life.

UAP Provincial, a general insurance subsidiary which used to be part of Sun Life, will merge with Axa's general insurance broking arm, Axa Insurance, by 1 January 1998. The company has announced it will bring out new products, including pensions and life assurance, by January for Axa Life.

Parent company Axa UAP now claims to have overtaken Fidelity Investments as the largest asset manager in the world, with £293bn under management.

Lord Dour, Sun Life & Provincial's chairman, said: "Following the acquisition, completed on 9 September, the imperative for the enlarged group is to build on the considerable skill of our operating companies."

"We are making good progress in integrating the businesses and are confident of realising the value of the resulting savings and efficiencies. We view the future with confidence and enthusiasm."

The merger is structured as a reverse takeover, with French parent Axa taking UAP's stake in Sun Life & Provincial, which in turn buys some of Axa's operations.

Sun Life's with-profits fund will now be closed to new business, leaving it with free assets worth hundreds of millions. However, Mr Wood squashed speculation that some of this might be handed out to policyholders. "We don't regard ourselves as a windfall office," he said.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Albright & Wilson (Q)	343.7m (358.9m)	1.8m (22m)	-1.9p (7.2p)	nil
Cape (Q)	118.7m (116.5m)	4m (-18.7m)	4.9p (4.5p)	3.0p (3.0p)
Timothy Douglas (Q)	240.6m (231.3m)	9.1m (8.0m)	18.1p (16.5p)	7.5p (7.0p)
Quintessence Group (F)	47.8m (24.9m)	5.1m (2.7m)	28.2p (20.1p)	7.0p
Garret (Q)	227.3m (207.2m)	12.7m (22.7m)	12.5p (28.8p)	4.0p (3.7p)
Hambleigh Technology (Q)	43.9m (48.2m)	7.72m (7.98m)	6.19p (6.18p)	1.4p (1.35p)
William Jackson (Q)	60.3m (51.1m)	630,000 (421,000)	3.09p (1.76p)	1.25p (1.0p)
Smith-PFI (Q)	240m (220m)	25.1m (21.5m)	10p (8.5p)	2.35p (2.1p)
Alfred McAlpine (Q)	261.3m (220.1m)	5.2m (1.8m)	5.4p (1.8p)	3.0p (3.0p)
Miror Group (Q)	271m (267.3m)	43.7m (61.9m)	7.4p (6.7p)	1.5p (1.35p)
William Morrison (Q)	1.12bn (1.1bn)	61.7m (55.2m)	4.95p (4.52p)	0.4p (0.325p)
P&O (Q)	2.88bn (3.44bn)	128.1m (134.7m)	14.8p (15.7p)	13.5p (13.5p)
RMC (Q)	2.1bn (2.2bn)	115.9m (87.1m)	25.9p (22.5p)	8.2p (7.8p)
Servair (Q)	73.8m (69.7m)	102,000 (86,000)	4.1p (1.6p)	1.75p
SIS (Q)	277m (209m)	14.7m (14.2m)	8.6p (8.9p)	2.5p (2.4p)
Wicks (Q)	291m (-)	-14.7m (-)	-19.8p (-)	nil

(F) - Final (Q) - Interim

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

P&O disposals fail to bring cheer

Lord Sterling yesterday made much of his revitalisation plan for P&O, which is supposed to raise return on capital at the shipping to exhibition centre group to 15 per cent. But the City remains highly sceptical. Although disposals to date are said to be running at £650m, investors have yet to see much of the cash. Indeed, gearing has risen from 72 to 80 per cent since December.

Meanwhile, the much-vaunted merger between P&O's ferry operations in the eastern English Channel and those of arch-rivals Stena Line, intended to meet the challenge of the Channel Tunnel, has run into the bureaucratic sand. The omens are not good, given the new Labour government's apparent predilec-

But with the group's return on capital unchanged at 10 per cent in the half-year and a barely covered dividend that has not been raised since 1990, Lord Sterling still has a lot to prove.

Full-year profits of £335m would put the shares, up 11.5p at 679.5p, on a forward multiple of 17.

A possible break-up value of 770p provides some support, but otherwise they are unattractive.

Albright scare heralds changes

Albright & Wilson, the chemicals group that puts the tang in Coca-Cola and the brightener in toothpaste, gave the stock market a fright yesterday with news of what looked like a profits collapse.

agents to you and me and over one-third of the business - rose 2 percentage points to 5.4 per cent as the group shifted to more value-added structured liquids. Mr Rocheleau reckons there is scope to take margins in this business to 8 per cent in the short term. Phosphates, used in detergents, took the bulk of the sterling hit in Europe, but performed well in Asia and America.

With minimal gearing and good cash flow, the company has some £200m to spend on its plans for expansion in China and Brazil. Wisely, given what can be difficult markets, the group will start with joint ventures along the lines of its Mexican operation. House broker BZW forecasts profits of £63m for the full year. Even though sterling will remain a continued pressure, a forward price-earnings ratio of 11 looks cheap.

Buoyant housing boosts Wicks

Not long ago Wicks was lurching from one financial crisis to another. Now, after a rescue rights issue, the DIY retailer looks to have returned to the financial straight and narrow. It has off-loaded the loss making continental European businesses and the UK DIY market is being buoyed by the housing market recovery.

Wicks' like-for-like sales rose 12 per cent in the first six months of the year. This sales growth, tight cost control and lower stock holdings helped the group to return to the black at the operating level, with a first-half profit of £5.9m.

Wicks' new management team plan to kick-start its store-opening programme again in 1998. It is also embarking on a multi-million pound refurbishment programme to lift sales of higher-margin products. With margins of around 2 per cent against the industry average of 5-6 per cent, there is scope for improvement.

Wicks' shares rose 16.5p to 196p yesterday on the encouraging results. Analysts forecast current year profits of around £6m, ignoring the loss it made selling the European businesses. Profits should rise to £20m next year as the recovery continues and the group also has £30m of tax losses up its sleeve.

On these numbers the shares look cheap. But Wicks remains at the mercy of the fickle DIY market. It admits that the housing market is already showing signs of slowing down. And the group hasn't got the fire-power to sing it out with the likes of B&Q and Homebase if demand begins to fall and prices are slashed. Given the potential problems ahead, Wicks' share price looks about right.

RMC cuts forecast for Germany

Shares in RMC, one of Europe's leading suppliers of building products, were hit when it warned of a slowdown in German demand in the aftermath of reunification. The group also said sterling's buoyancy could cost it £30m in the full year. Magnus Grimond writes.

RMC's forecast that German volumes would be down between 4 and 6 per cent this year helped send the share price falling yesterday, leaving it 55.5p down at 988.5p. But Peter Young, chief executive, described the market reaction as "quite ill-informed", pointing out that RMC had leading or strong positions in a market which was nearly three times the size of the UK market.

He said the decline, which had been anticipated, had been hidden in the first six months of the year by bad weather in 1996 which disrupted normal operations from January through to April and meant RMC was comparing five months output this year with only 2.5 months last time.

The fall-off in demand in Germany, RMC's second-most

profitable area, comes as a huge surge in demand for everything from aggregates to ready-mixed concrete tails off in the wake of reunification. Housebuilding, which peaked at 600,000 a year two years ago, has fallen to around 450,000.

Even so, Mr Young defended the group's DM500m (£175m) project to buy and in effect rebuild the Rudersdorf cement works 20 miles from Berlin in the old East Germany which has created one of Europe's biggest cement producers and is only now building up to full capacity.

"We bought the business in 1990 as soon as we could when the wall came down and in no way do I regret that investment," he said. Given the impending move of the German capital to Berlin, it was adjacent to "the biggest building site in Europe". His only regret was that others did the same thing, leading to over-capacity in the east, he added.

His comments came as RMC reported a 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £116m in the six months to June, which would have been a 30 per cent advance but for a £10m impact from translating overseas results. Assuming sterling remained strong, there would be a further £20m hit in the second half, the company said.

Kwik-Fit expands in Europe

Kwik-Fit yesterday announced plans for a rapid expansion of its car repairs business into continental Europe. Sir Tom Farmer, the group's chairman, is also considering setting up a breakdown service to take on the Automobile Association and the RAC.

Sir Tom said: "We want to develop the Kwik-Fit name. Kwik-Fit could lend itself very well to breakdown services."

Kwik-Fit's plans to take on the likes of the AA and RAC are still in their infancy. "The idea is just a twinkle in somebody's eye at the moment," said Sir Tom. But he indicated the move was a serious prospect for the group over the next few

years. Kwik-Fit could use its national network of centres to offer a range of pick up and repair services.

Meanwhile Kwik-Fit announced an aggressive push into continental Europe. It is opening another 25 outlets in Holland and Belgium in the next six months to add to its 156 sites there. Kwik-Fit is also planning to start up operations throughout Scandinavia.

Kwik-Fit has spent £14m on new stores in the past six months.

The company beat analysts' forecasts by announcing a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the half year to August. Its shares rose 23.5p to 308.5p.

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Airtours shares slump as directors take off for pastures new

MARKET REPORT



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OF THE YEAR

Shares of Airtours, the packaged holidays group seemingly stretching into the stratosphere in the summer, dived 63.5p to 1.054p as the stock market fretted about more intense competition and senior management defections.

At the height of the holiday season the shares were flying at 1.240p. The departing executives are directors of one of Airtours' UK subsidiaries. They are said to be Paul Evans and Steve Endacott.

The two are joining the troubled Inspirations holidays group taken over by the American travel giant, Carlson, for \$42m in July. It was something of a knockdown price with the US group paying 75p a share against the 152.5p peak hit last year.

Airtours professed to be untruffed. A source close to the company thought the

market "had grossly overreacted" to the loss of the two executives.

Still, the departure of Messrs Evans and Endacott comes at a time when the market is already a little apprehensive about Airtours' ability to withstand the price-cutting challenge launched last week by Thomson, the industry leader.

Second-placed Airtours has had an enjoyable run but the belligerent competition sparked off by Canadian-owned Thomson could erode industry profit margins. First Choice, the third-largest operator, which once resisted a 150p-a-share offer from Airtours, was unchanged at 96.5p.

The rest of the market was again in form with Footsie rising 33.1 points to 5,046.2; the supporting indices also moved ahead.

Firm Government stocks helped sentiment but there was once again evidence major investment houses were jockeying for positions ahead of today's futures expiry. Market men would not be surprised if the end of the September series is a particularly messy affair.

There are indications major positions have still to be covered and Footsie could experience a heady run, possibly hitting a peak, ahead of the mid-morning expiry.

Tate & Lyle sweetened 8p to 4.124p on stories cash-rich Associated British Foods is thinking of taking advantage of the poor performing shares by mounting a bid.

ABF already has extensive sugar interests and on the surface a strike at T&L would have difficulty escaping a monopolies block. But there is a

theory T&L has become so deeply involved in the broader world of sweeteners that a monopolies hurdle may not be insurmountable.

Railtrack's progress continued with the shares getting nearer the 950p Panmure Gordon projection, up 35p to 844.5p. Allied Domecq, the drinks group, was another at a high, 4.5p stronger at 489p.

Standard Chartered, hit by Asian worries, rallied 41p to 858.5p with Credit Lyonnais Laing saying boy, BOC, the chemical group, rose 27.5p to 1,040p on a NatWest Securities push.

Suggestions of a continental strike lifted WH Smith 4.5p to 374.5p and Marks & Spencer put on 13.5p to 609.5p on overseas buying. Sears, figures next week, was again alone and forlorn, falling 1p to 56.5p low.

The strong pound took its toll of exporters with RMC's comments underlining the impact of sterling's squeeze. RMC fell 55.5p to 998.5p.

Pilkington, the glassmaker, attracted lumpy trading with deals clinched at 158.5p; the price ended off 3.5p at 153p.

Protean, an engineer, is the latest on the undercard to attract a bid approach. The shares jumped 45p to 180p.

Airtech, involved in mobile telephones, gained 13.5p to 90p after moving into profits. The shares arrived at 68p.

European Telecom dialled a 24p advance to 269p. Chairman Warren Hardy sold almost 5 million shares at 235p; they were placed with institutions by Collins Stewart. Datatrach, the computer group, gained a further 11.5p to 93p on share-buying by finance director Gerard Connolly.

US bid speculation rolled Molins, the tobacco machinery maker, 17.5p higher to 447.5p.

Campbell & Armstrong, the loss-making specialist shopfitter, shed 0.5p to 4.5p as speculators grew impatient over the failure of the expected takeover bid to materialise.

Last month a 10 per cent stake changed hands, with a company called SAS thought to have moved in.

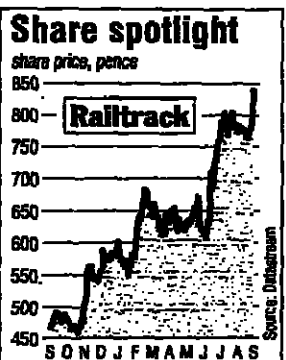
TAKING STOCK

In busy trading steel maker ASW put on 8.5p to 36p, highest since March, as stories flowed of a French bid. There was hopeful talk that Unior Saelor, sitting on 12 per cent, was planning to bid for this basket case of the steel industry, which lost \$51.7m last year and a further \$8.8m in the first half of this year.

Two years ago the shares were 247p.

Motion Media, the video-phone maker, returned to the fringe offer market after a £2.5m cash raising exercise at £20. Surprisingly, the shares closed at only 180p, a 25p gain from the suspension price.

MM's videophones are due to be launched in some Dixons stores before Christmas and Philips will shortly start to sell them in Europe.



22 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
Alcohol & Beverages							
44-45	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-46	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-48	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-50	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-52	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-54	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-56	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-58	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-60	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-62	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-64	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-66	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-68	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-70	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-72	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-74	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-76	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-78	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-80	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-82	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-84	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-86	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-88	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-90	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-92	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-94	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-96	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-98	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00
44-100	44.00	43.00	44.00	43.00	-0.10	5.2	44.00

22 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
High Low Stock							
22-23	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-24	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-25	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-26	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-27	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-28	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-29	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-30	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-31	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-32	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-33	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-34	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-35	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-36	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-37	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-38	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-39	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-40	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-41	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-42	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-43	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-44	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-45	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-46	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-47	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-48	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-49	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-50	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00

22 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
High Low Stock							
22-51	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-52	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-53	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-54	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-55	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-56	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-57	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-58	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-59	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-60	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-61	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-62	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-63	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-64	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-65	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-66	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-67	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-68	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-69	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-70	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-71	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-72	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-73	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-74	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-75	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-76	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-77	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-78	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-79	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-80	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00

22 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
High Low Stock							
22-81	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-82	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-83	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-84	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-85	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-86	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-87	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-88	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-89	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-90	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-91	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-92	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-93	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-94	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-95	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-96	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-97	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-98	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-99	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-100	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00

22 week	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E Code
22-101	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-102	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-103	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-104	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-105	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-106	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-107	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-108	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-109	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-110	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-111	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-112	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-113	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-114	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-115	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-116	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-117	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-118	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-119	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-120	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-121	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-122	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-123	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-124	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-125	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-126	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-127	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-128	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-129	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-130	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-131	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-132	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-133	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-134	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-135	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-136	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-137	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-138	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-139	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-140	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-141	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-142	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-143	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-144	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-145	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-146	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-147	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-148	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-149	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-150	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-151	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-152	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-153	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-154	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-155	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-156	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-157	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-158	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-159	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-160	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-161	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-162	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-163	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-164	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-165	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-166	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-167	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-168	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-169	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-170	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-171	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-172	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-173	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-174	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-175	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-176	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-177	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-178	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-179	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-180	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-181	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-182	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-183	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-184	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-185	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-186	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-187	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-188	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-189	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-190	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-191	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-192	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-193	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-194	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-195	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-196	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-197	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-198	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-199	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00
22-200	22.00	21.00	22.00	21.00	-0.10	5.2	22.00

I have long held the belief Glamorgan cricket has been patronised by the establishment

It is now almost two weeks since the Surrey coach, Dave Gilbert, offered up a remark that caused no small amount of consternation west of the Severn Bridge and for which he should have been called to account by the cricket authorities. Upset by Glamorgan's decision to settle for maximum bonus points from a draw at The Oval that consolidated their challenge for the County Championship and put paid to Surrey's aspirations, Gilbert said: "It was outrageous that they gave up the chance [of outright victory] so early. It had all the makings of a great finish. If they are going to play like that they can't expect too many favours when we play Kent."

If it was only natural for Gilbert to be disappointed, there was no excuse for remarks made in the full knowledge that Surrey's performance in the match presently taking place at Canterbury would probably be as important to Glamorgan's hopes of becoming champions as the effort called for in their final match against Somerset at Taunton.

Far from regretting a pretty obvious indiscretion, one that would surely have caused eyebrows to be raised in other sporting circles, Gilbert went even further this week, stating a preference for Kent on the basis of his belief that they have a more positive attitude than the Welsh county.

This suggested that Gilbert, an Australian who will leave Surrey when his contract expires at the end of this month, does not always en-

gage his brain before entering into conversation.

Are Surrey—who were without four injured players including their captain, Adam Hogg, and the England batsman Graham Thorpe—straining every sinew at Canterbury, where they were bowled out for 124 in their first innings yesterday? A question for cricket officialdom is how does it look upon Gilbert's remarks, which if attributed to a football coach in similar circumstances would have led to serious repercussions.

Going back many years, longer than it is comfortable to remember, I have shared with any number of compatriots the belief that Glamorgan cricket, which happens to be one of the best supported, has been patronised by the establish-



KEN JONES

ment, especially by representatives of that class-conscious domain, the Home Counties.

Glamorgan are not alone with the appendage "unfashionable", whatever that means, but a view held with some justification in Wales is that far from being familiar with the Severn Bridge toll charges, there are

England selectors who are in ignorance of its construction.

There is the case of Steve James, named Cricketer of the Year this week by his fellow professionals, who was passed over for England's winter tour of the West Indies despite being the season's leading run scorer and top of the batting averages. The theory that James' preference for the off-side would be a drawback in the Caribbean does not entirely remove a suspicion of bias.

No Glamorgan cricketer was treated more disgracefully than the gifted opening batsman Gilbert Parkhouse, who suffered from curious selections during the 1950 Ashes series in Australia, losing his place to a stodgy amateur left-hander, J G Dewes of Middlesex. Alan Jones, who according to many

good judges was better equipped technically to succeed at Test level than many a predecessor, was never called upon again after turning out for England in 1970 against the Rest of the World.

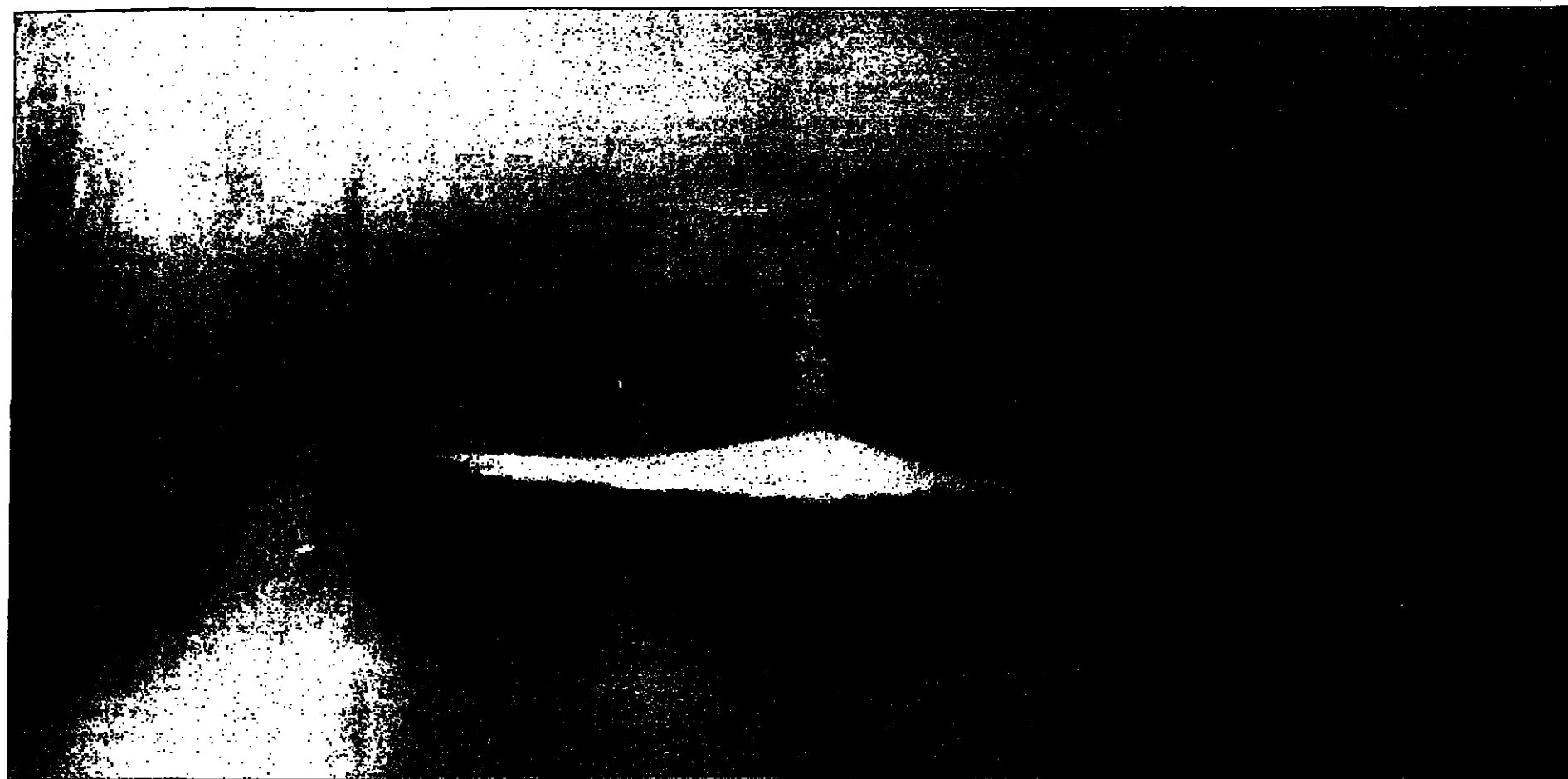
After leading Glamorgan to their second championship in 1969, Tony Lewis went on to captain England in India, but Glamorgan players have not been given much chance to prove themselves internationally. Two members of today's team, Matthew Maynard and Hugh Morris, were given only a handful of matches.

As a boy in 1948, the season of Glamorgan's first championship, I saw Allan Watkins play in the Fifth Test against Australia at The Oval. A brilliant all-rounder whose catching at short-leg fell into the miraculous category, he was pressed into

service as an opening bowler for a match in which England were dismissed for just 52 in their first innings. Some opportunity!

Later that year, Watkins caught Dudley Nourse brilliantly to win a Test against South Africa in Johannesburg but, predictably, some of you may think, he did not have a long Test career. Apart from Robert Croft, who appeared in five of the six Tests against Australia and will go with England to the West Indies, hardly any Glamorgan players have been given a proper chance to prove themselves.

It is not often these days that I find myself concerned about the outcome of a sports event, but it will please me no end if Glamorgan succeed in taking another swipe at the establishment.



Moving image: Damon Hill, set to announce his move to Jordan this morning, prepares for practice in Austria yesterday, where he set the fastest time

Photograph: Empics

Happy Hill throws down his marker

After Arrows-Yamaha announced Damon Hill's replacement for next season, the defending champion looked to be without a drive. Now he appears to have found one, writes Derick Allsop from Zellwag, Austria.

Damon Hill will end a summer of speculation this morning and confirm his move to Jordan next season. Neither party would comment here yesterday as Formula One assembled for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix, but Jordan said they would be making a statement today regarding their drivers for 1998.

Since they have decided not to appeal against a High Court verdict in favour of Benetton over the services of Giancarlo Fisichella and Hill has no apparent other option, their marriage of convenience seems set. Hill, who is parting company with Arrows-Yamaha at the end of the season, rejected an offer from Jordan at the end of last year and rebuffed another approach last month. Prost remained a possibility, but when the French team pulled out of talks, renewed discussions with Jordan became inevitable.

The world champion had cause to declare himself "relaxed" here last night. He cut his 37th birthday cake, albeit a day late, and savoured the fact that he had been fastest in the

familiarisation session for Sunday's race and clearly had a contract in his back pocket.

He gave a clue to that effect when he said: "It's nice to be able to concentrate on the driving and really enjoy it. I'm looking forward to getting stuck into this weekend and I'd like to give the team a win for all the hard work they've put in this season."

It would be a win on a circuit Nigel Mansell would barely recognise. Forget the new facilities and stands, they change all the time. The difference here is that the heart of one of the world's great sporting arenas has been ripped out.

The Österreich-Ring was a spectacular circuit, carved into rolling hills and forests. It was worthy of mention in the same

breath as Spa. When the old Silverstone was dormant, the Austrian Grand Prix track was the fastest in Formula One. Mansell made his debut here in 1980. Seven years later, he returned to complete a century of grands prix and won the race. The world championship has not been here since.

On Sunday, the Austrian Grand Prix is back on the map, but in a new guise, and the modern generation of drivers, who explored it yesterday, will log it as just another modern circuit.

Gone is the sweep round the trees, reducing the length of the track from 5.9 to 4.3km (2.7m). More significantly, gone also are two super-fast, horseshoe bends which characterised the

place. The Bosch Curve was an intimidating challenge on a par with Eau Rouge. Now it is just another right-hander. And the Österreich-Ring is just another circuit. Except that it is no longer the Österreich-Ring, but the A1-Ring, in deference to the sponsor.

The old circuit had been under pressure to make alterations even before that August weekend, a decade ago. Then, in practice, Stefan Johansson was fortunate to suffer nothing worse than shock after hitting a deer at 150mph.

Drivers are now resigned to racing on new circuits that are much the same as the next, tight, twisting concoctions that offer little opportunity for overtaking. David Coulthard,

winner at Monza 12 days ago, says of the A1-Ring: "It is like Monaco with barriers."

Michael Schumacher of Ferrari, who heads the championship by 10 points from Jacques Villeneuve of Williams-Renault, will be content enough if it is like Monaco with rain on Sunday.

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX (Zellwag, Sunday) Unofficial practice times: 1 D Hill (GB) 1:28.565; 2 R Barrichello (BR) 1:29.000; 3 J Magnussen (DN) 1:29.020; 4 J Alesi (FR) 1:29.030; 5 J Herbert (GB) 1:29.040; 6 M Heidegger (FR) 1:29.050; 7 D Coulthard (GB) 1:29.060; 8 J Jenson (GB) 1:29.070; 9 J Villeneuve (CA) 1:29.080; 10 S Badoer (IT) 1:29.090; 11 G Piquet (BR) 1:29.100; 12 J Montoya (CO) 1:29.110; 13 J Trulli (IT) 1:29.120; 14 J Agnew (GB) 1:29.130; 15 J Koster (NL) 1:29.140; 16 J Schumacher (DE) 1:29.150; 17 J Sato (JP) 1:29.160; 18 J Wurz (AUT) 1:29.170; 19 J Verstappen (NL) 1:29.180; 20 G Montoya (CO) 1:29.190; 21 J Trulli (IT) 1:29.200; 22 J Agnew (GB) 1:29.210; 23 J Koster (NL) 1:29.220.

Kent v Surrey: Kent (5pts), with one first-innings wicket standing, are 83 runs ahead of Surrey (0).

Surrey: First innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

CRICKET

DeFreitas delivers blow to Yorkshire

Mike Carey reports from Derby
Yorkshire 267
Derbyshire 0-0

The ball moved around all day here yesterday and that was enough for Derbyshire, even without Dominic Cork and Devon Malcolm, to make Yorkshire work harder than they perhaps expected to reach a serviceable total that owed much to their lower order.

Cork's absence was due to a dislocated finger and Malcolm stood down, ostensibly to allow Trevor Smith, a 20-year-old medium-fast bowler from the respected Sandiwaye Town club, to make his Championship debut. Malcolm has yet to sign a contract for next year, which may or may not be significant after the troubled season Derbyshire have had.

David, Byas probably felt that batting would be straightforward on a cloudless morning, but at 10.30am Phil DeFreitas' looser was a "jaffa" which bounced and left Anthony McGrath stranded. Encouraged, DeFreitas bowled superbly and it took Yorkshire some time to locate the middle of the bat.

With any number of deliveries finding the edge, there was some irony when DeFreitas had Michael Vaughan caught at cover by Smith and McGrath, who had been dropped at slip off Andy Harris, found his luck running out when he failed to obtain a third for a stroke through the covers. Byas immediately planted his right leg down the pitch, which suggested the bowler might have trouble against left-handers, whereupon DeFreitas disposed of two in one over. Darren Lehmann bowled by a slower inswinger which just dislodged a ball and Alex Morris, lbw when getting well forward but offering no stroke. That gave DeFreitas 3 for 2 in 15 balls. When Bradley Parker went after a wide outswinger from Smith, Karl Krikken held the resulting thin edge a long way to his right and at 58 for 5 Byas, and Richard Blakey had to summon all their resilience in a partnership of 118. At this stage, some of the bowling lost its discipline, yet this probably contributed to the downfall of both batsmen; Byas was caught on the long-leg boundary and Blakey mistimed something resembling a leg-stump half-volley.

Hick hits double century

Graeme Hick, omitted from both England tour parties this winter, yesterday took advantage of an easy-paced wicket and a Hampshire attack, which included two debutants, to hit an unbeaten 253 as Worcestershire reached 428 for 2 on the first day at Southampton.

Hick, whose innings lasted just over six hours, and his captain, Tom Moody, who was 120 not out, put on 328 for the third wicket, beating a county record which had stood for 35 years.

Ashley Cowan, whose potential as a strike bowler has won him a place on the tour to the West Indies, confirmed himself as more than a useful batsman at Chelmsford.

Coming in at No 10, he rescued Essex with a career-best 77 to guide them to 271 all out against Middlesex, who were 30 for 1 in reply at close.

Meanwhile, Mike Gatting is willing to take over as coach of Middlesex in a year's time. Gatting has made his pledge in the wake of Don Bennett's decision to retire following 47 years on the Lord's staff as player and coach.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Derbyshire v Yorkshire
Derbyshire: 0-0
Yorkshire: 267

Derbyshire: 1st innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

Gloucestershire v Lancashire
Gloucestershire: 267
Lancashire: 0-0

Gloucestershire: 1st innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

Canterbury v Kent
Canterbury: 0-0
Kent: 267

Canterbury: 1st innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

Leicestershire v Durham
Leicestershire: 0-0
Durham: 0-0

Leicestershire: 1st innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

Warwickshire v Northants
Warwickshire: 0-0
Northants: 0-0

Warwickshire: 1st innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

Essex v Middlesex
Essex: 0-0
Middlesex: 0-0

Essex: 1st innings: 1 D Hill 100, 2 R Barrichello 50, 3 J Magnussen 40, 4 J Alesi 30, 5 J Herbert 20, 6 M Heidegger 10, 7 D Coulthard 10, 8 J Jenson 10, 9 J Villeneuve 10, 10 S Badoer 10, 11 G Piquet 10, 12 J Montoya 10, 13 J Trulli 10, 14 J Agnew 10, 15 J Koster 10, 16 J Schumacher 10, 17 J Sato 10, 18 J Wurz 10, 19 J Verstappen 10, 20 G Montoya 10, 21 J Trulli 10, 22 J Agnew 10, 23 J Koster 10.

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Rugby League
STONES PREMIERSHIP Semi-final: St Helens v Castleford (730).

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'orkshire

Grobelaar and Segers charged by FA with breaches of betting rules

Bruce Grobelaar and Hans Segers, two of the three footballers cleared of match-fixing at Winchester Crown Court last month, have been charged by the Football Association with breaking its rules on betting.

If found guilty, they could face lifetime bans from the sport. Guy Hodgson reports on the latest twist in a long-running saga.

No sooner had Bruce Grobelaar, Han Segers and John Fashanu been found not guilty at Winchester Crown Court, last month than the Football Association asked Sir John Smith, the former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, to investigate the evidence presented in court.

Yesterday's charges by the FA against Grobelaar and Segers - Fashanu has retired and is, for the moment at least, out of its jurisdiction - were the result of that investigation and followed consultation with the legal representatives of all three players.

A more serious charge of

match-fixing, levelled at Grobelaar by the FA in November 1994 and suspended pending the criminal proceedings, has been dropped.

At Winchester the players admitted to being paid for forecasting the results of games, a breach of rules on betting tightened after the bribes scandal in the 1960s that effectively ended the careers of a number of players, including the England international Peter Swan and Tony Kay.

Announcing the decision David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said: "The players and their clubs - Wolverhampton Wanderers and Oxford

United respectively - have been informed of this decision this morning. They have 14 days to respond."

The FA is also effectively urging world football's governing body, Fifa, to reject an application by Fashanu, the former Wimbledon player, to become an approved agent. "John Fashanu is now outside the game," Davies said. "He has, however, applied for a Fifa licence to operate as an agent. This has been pending while the criminal proceedings against him were completed."

"Sir John has recommended that details of those proceedings are forwarded immediately to Fifa to help them in their con-

sideration of the application."

Neither Grobelaar, 39, who won six championship and three European Cup winners medals with Liverpool in the 1980s or Segers, 35, formerly with Nottingham Forest and Wimbledon, is a first-choice player with his current club and even if the FA imposed smaller bans than a life term, their ages mean that their careers would be effectively ended.

Nevertheless Grobelaar is almost certain to play for Oxford against Sheffield United at the Manor Ground tomorrow. The Zimbabwean international signed a month's contract earlier this week as cover for the in-

jured Phil Whitehead and the Oxford secretary Mick Brown said yesterday's developments would not affect Grobelaar's chances of appearing.

"We have spoken to the FA and there is no problem with him playing," he said. "Until the case is heard we don't know what the result is. He has just been charged, he has not been found guilty. And when he gets the hearing I expect it will be outside the month he is here anyway."

The decision to drop the match-fixing charge against Grobelaar was inevitable after the verdict at Winchester and his solicitor, David Hewitt,

laid the emphasis on that. "The FA's decision once and for all vindicates Bruce, who has consistently denied any involvement in match-fixing," he said.

"With regard to the fresh allegation of assisting in betting on football matches, I still await full details from the Football Association and will be discussing the matter with Bruce. I anticipate that we will request a personal hearing."

Segers' solicitor, Mel Goldberg, said his client was "very disappointed" by the FA's decision and would be seeking a personal hearing. "He feels that he has suffered enough over the last two-and-a-half

years and has already cleared his name in a court of law."

Betting on the outcome of matches is against FA rules, although many players have admitted to laying wagers on themselves, most commonly to score the first goal in a particular match. Following the latest trial, senior figures at the FA have become concerned that these innocent bets could turn into the basis for match manipulation.

Sir John Smith's brief was also to consider what recommendations he had about the rules regarding betting and forecasting in football. He is expected to deliver his report early next month.

CRICKET

Pitch report could cost Kent their title chance

Henry Blofeld reports from Canterbury
Surrey 124
Kent 217-9

This was a poor pitch for a match which may decide the County Championship. Nineteen wickets fell on the first day on what David Gilbert, the Surrey coach, charitably described as a "sporting green top." It was more than that. A nasty bounce claimed at least four wickets and was uppermost in the batsmen's minds.

It was also of concern to the umpires Trevor Jesty and Alan Whitehead, who reported the strip - last played on in 1993 - for being "underprepared".

The England and Wales Cricket Board pitches consultant, Harry Bird, will now inspect the wicket this morning. If he finds Kent guilty, they could be docked as many as 25 points - which would confirm Glamorgan as champions without the Welsh county needing to beat Somerset at Taunton.

John Wright, the Kent coach, said that the groundstaff had chosen "the flattest pitch out there" for the match.

An important side issue to the day's developments was Gilbert's statement on Wednesday that Glamorgan could expect no favours from Surrey. He claims he was badly misquoted and had meant the exact opposite, namely, that Surrey had every intention of making it as hard as possible for the home

Top of the table

Team	P	W	L	D	Net Run Rate	Points
Glamorgan	10	7	2	1	1.48	57
Kent	10	7	2	1	1.40	54
Surrey	10	6	3	1	1.31	51
Warwickshire	10	6	3	1	1.24	51
Nottinghamshire	10	6	3	1	1.23	51
Leicestershire	10	6	3	1	1.23	51
Gloucestershire	10	6	3	1	1.23	51
Derbyshire	10	6	3	1	1.23	51
Essex	10	6	3	1	1.23	51
Northamptonshire	10	6	3	1	1.23	51

© Includes yesterday's 17th round bonus points

side. "I was asked straight out," he said. "Who I would prefer to win the Championship and I said 'Kent'. It was just an honest answer. But to think that means that Surrey wouldn't try against Kent, who won the toss - and even Glamorgan cannot blame anyone for that - bowled when conditions were at their hardest and bowled better than Surrey did later on."

In the morning session, when Surrey were bowled out in 27 overs in 130 minutes, the ball swung sharply in a heavy haze and moved all over the place off the seam, particularly at the Nackington Road end.

On this sort of pitch only batsmen of real class or those with determination will make runs. Kent's Mark Butcher, who batted for 93 minutes, displayed bags of the second, while Chris Lewis's flair enabled him to produce an exciting cameo, but nothing more, as so often happens with him. Later, Ed Smith and Alan Wells showed what class could do and Mark Ealham revealed a combination of the two.

Both counties are fielding weakened sides. Kent were without the injured Martin McCague and Dean Headley, while Paul Strang has gone home to play for Zimbabwe. Surrey are without Graham



Rupesh Amin is bowled by Kent's Matthew Fleming to end Surrey's innings at Canterbury yesterday. Photograph: PA

Thorpe, Adam Hoolioake and Martin Bicknell.

Kent's decision to field first was a formality and before 11 overs had been bowled half the Surrey were out for 29. Alec Stewart had a nasty lifter he could get on top off and was brilliantly caught at short leg. Otherwise there were some poor strokes by batsmen finding the movement too much for

them and whose techniques were shown to be sketchy.

Kent's Julian Thompson, who swung the ball sharply away from the right handers, bowled extremely well for his 4 for 33, although he was lucky when Alistair Brown skied a hook to fine leg.

The home side made hardly the best of starts to their innings when David Fulton drove

at the first ball of their innings and was caught at second slip.

The sharp bounce caused the second wicket to fall, Trevor Ward being caught in two minds by one which lifted unpleasantly. A mixture of poor batting, good bowling and the unexpected bounce then had Kent wickets falling just as Surrey's had earlier in the day. Smith received a Yorker

when he was on the back foot expecting a bouncer, while Graham Crowder had a brute of a ball which lifted from near a length. Wells' fine innings ended when he fell to Lewis outside the off stump.

After tea, Ealham was admirable, making the only fifty of the day. Ben Phillips made an excellent partner and the pair on 51 for the eighth wicket.

Maynard makes merry as Glamorgan stay focused

Derek Pringle reports from Taunton
Somerset 252
Glamorgan 159-2

Taunton was a place of near monastic calm in comparison to Canterbury yesterday, with nary a pitch inspector in sight. At least it was until Matthew Maynard strode to the crease and decided to respond to Somerset's first innings of 252, by launching a blistering assault every bit as exhilarating as the one's performed here by Ian Botham and Vivian Richards in the previous decade.

Outscoring his partner, Hugh Morris, unbeaten on 49, at over two runs to one, Maynard charged to an unbeaten 76 off 71 balls. With the clean tones of his power play ringing out around the ground, all bar Andy Caddick felt the power of his desire to bring the Championship pennant back to Wales for the first time since 1969.

It was a captain's innings and more; a scruff of the neck response to all the controversy and ire that has been in the air since Surrey's announced their feeble side to play Kent, the other Championship contenders. With the weather set fair for the next few days, Glamorgan's efforts will be directed towards extracting 24 points (though they probably only

need 21) from the 22 yards here at Taunton rather than the going-on down in Kent.

Maynard's treatment of the rookie Ben Trot, in particular, was so brutal it verged on bullying, as the young pace bowler's two overs were despatched for 21 runs, including a mighty pull for six over mid-wicket.

It was not all one-way traffic, though, and Somerset, following Caddick's double strike to remove Steve James and Adrian Dale, had their chances, spilling a trio of dropped catches, including Maynard on 70.

If they had held them, the chances are they could well have been contesting this game, a position they will now find difficult to resurrect without the services of their inspirational leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who failed a fitness test with a recurring sore knee.

Fortunately for Glamorgan supporters, their team had no such problem with their overseas player. When you have Waqar Younis bowling for you it does not really matter what the rest get up to, and despite bowling under the handicap of Taunton's humidity - he had to leave the field to see Messrs Armitage and Shanks after his first spell - Waqar removed the mainstays of Somerset's batting in two fiery spells either side of lunch.

Had he been indisposed, the home side would surely not

have made the 252 on a pitch that offered early assistance to the seam bowlers, but which had flattened out after tea.

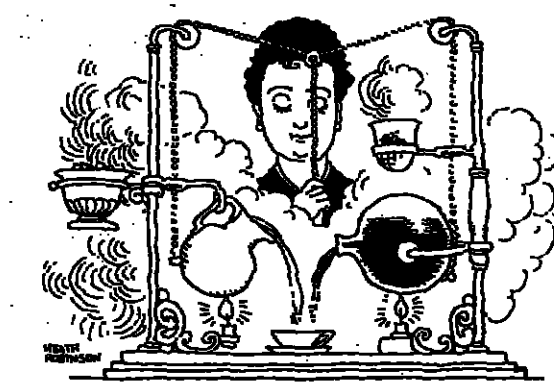
Getting both bounce and movement with the new ball, the Pakistani fast bowler plucked out Pirun Holloway's off-stump in the fifth over of the day with a classic outswinger that the left-hander appeared to misjudge as he drove at thin air.

The same could not be said for Simon Ecclestone, who at least made contact, albeit only thin enough to find Hugh Morris at first slip. With Steve Watkins (3 for 31) picking up Rob Turner with a tennis ball bouncer only the most glibly would try and hit - Turner did and picked out Darren Thomas at long-leg - and Robert Croft winking out Marcus Trescothick, Waqar was able to operate in short bursts. It proved an effective tactic too and, just as Mark Lathwell and Michael Burns were threatening to put together a telling partnership, Waqar scattered their stumps to finish with 4 for 41.

As has befitted a career that has yet to get beyond the highly promising, Lathwell's dismissal, playing around a gentle inswinger, brought to an end another sweet but unsatisfying cameo. He is a talent in limbo, a claim that was put into perspective after he was outscored by Peter Bowler, a grifter but infinitely less talented batsman.

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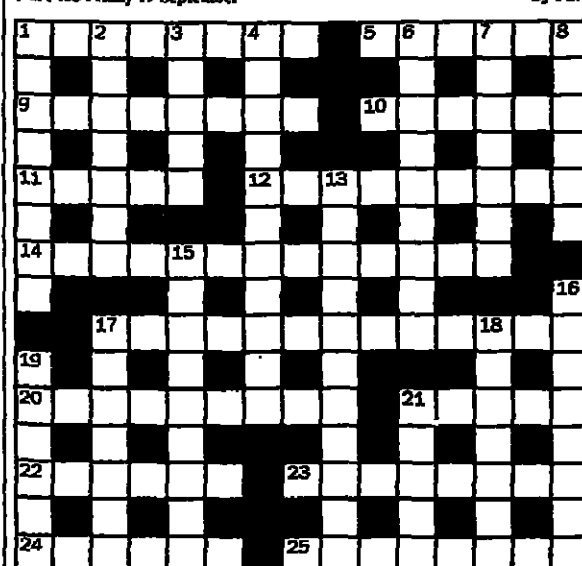


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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3485 Friday 19 September

By Phil



- ACROSS**
- Picture harbour, one with sailor round about (8)
 - River calms around first sign of Henley (6)
 - Neat game from universities (8)
 - It protects King in love-affair (6)
 - Sick of mountains? (5)
 - Secret society member left over some associate (9)
 - Find royal ciret not guilty - in camera, presumably (5, 3, 5)
 - Provider of Meals on Wheels? (10, 3)
 - I throw away a lot in part of London (9)
 - Plan on receiving the French national symbol (5)
 - Relative accepts second (5)

- Tree not readily moved for treatment (5, 3)
- First slice of bread complete - with this? (6)
- Day cadet needs to get drunk - leaves for drink here? (3-5)
- Power in writing about the Northern view (8)
- Anger about pre-Christian date ascribed to some bones (7)
- Bright, not black and wet (5)
- Cheerful transplant patient's hopes lie here? (2, 4, 5)
- Rugby player appearing in pantomime? (9)

- DOWN**
- With a switch, most of monolith is illuminated at night (7)
 - Perceptive, a little, about women (6)
 - Sticking to principles is unusual in a director (11)
 - No car seen in pieces from this vibration (9)
 - Congenial scripture lessons finish in rush (8)
 - Appearance of prototype part not allowed, we hear (4-3)
 - Composer to get a load of real estate (7)
 - Pointed remark about one cold medicine having effect on the digestion (6)
 - Inspiration running short, I see, in symphony, perhaps (5)